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Japan

Spokesman on New International Contribution Tax

OW1212113291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—The new "international contribution tax" revealed Thursday as being under government consideration is a combination of existing special taxes, such as those on oil and automobiles, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said. Speaking at a regular press meeting in the afternoon, the top government spokesman said, "The proposed tax is partly new, partly an extension or continuation of existing taxes which are coming to the end of their term."

The existing taxes referred to are one-off consumption taxes on automobile, oil, and petroleum products and a special corporation tax, introduced in April to raise money for Japan's financial contributions to the U.S.-led allied forces in the Persian Gulf war. These taxes are set to expire next March 31. But with an expected tax revenue shortfall in fiscal 1992 amid a slowing economy, the government is reportedly considering extending the term of the tax.

Strong opposition to such a move has been voiced by Japanese business sectors as well as by overseas oil-exporting countries and european countries concerned about possible declines in oil and car imports by Japan. Meanwhile, the government has been pushing, but failing to legislate, a bill to enable Japan to send troops to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Kato denied in a separate press meeting earlier in the day that the newly proposed tax by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was being considered as a substitute for the legislation.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata also said in the Diet Thursday the government will study the introduction of the proposed international contribution tax. In a session of the House of Councillors' Budget Committee, Hata said, "discussing the possibility of the tax is necessary, as boosting Japan's contribution to the international community is one of the pillars (of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet)."

Hata said the government will discuss the details and feasibility of the proposed tax with the LDP. The LDP's Research Commission on the tax system said Thursday it may be difficult to incorporate the proposed tax into the tax system by next year.

Introduction Set for FY92

OW1212134191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—The government has decided to introduce a new tax in fiscal 1992 to finance Japan's international contributions, a top official in the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The Finance Ministry and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], which proposed the new tax to the ministry late Wednesday, have agreed to introduce the new tax, probably in fiscal 1992, the official said.

The official, who refused to be identified, said he believes such a scheme is important and necessary to boost Japan's international contribution amid fiscal restraint.

The new tax emerged as the government-sponsored bill to send Japanese troops overseas to help United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKO) has failed to pass the Diet.

The Finance Ministry official, however, denied that the proposed tax is designed to compensate for the failure of the PKO bill.

The new tax will also be separate from the tax hikes being considered to fill the expected shortfall in revenue in fiscal 1992 starting next April, he said.

The revenue from the new tax will cover Japan's assistance to developing countries, global environment protection, and other international contributions, he said.

The official refused to discuss how much the new tax is expected to raise.

The ministry and the LDP are working to hammer out the basics of the new tax while government and party tax councils submit their contributions on tax changes for fiscal 1992 next week, the official said.

Deputy Minister Seeks To Raise Defense Spending

OW1212124891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Japan will have to jack up its defense expenditures to fill a strategic vacuum to be left by the probable withdrawal of U.S. military forces from the Asia-Pacific region, Japan's deputy defense minister said Thursday.

"Should the United States reduce its military forces deployed on its (Pacific) fronts, such a pullout would oblige Japan to raise its defense spending, although Japan cannot take over the role that has been played by the U.S.," Vice Minister of Defense Akira Hiyoshi said.

Hiyoshi said that if Japan accepts the notion that U.S. Forces have been shouldering part of Japan's military responsibilities, then a U.S. pullout would oblige Japan to raise its defense spending, rather than cut down on the spending in tandem with the U.S.

It is the first time that a high-ranking Defense Agency official voiced Japan's readiness to expand its military role in the region to make up for the U.S. withdrawals.

Hiyoshi's statement came three months after the Philippine Senate rejected a new lease for the Subic Bay naval base in a vote that could end America's 93-year military presence in the Philippines.

It also comes at a time when the U.S. and South Korea are reviewing a proposed sharp reduction of U.S. military forces stationed on the korean peninsula to counter North Korea's alleged threat to the region.

Hiyoshi said the Defense Agency cannot accept as valid calls for a cutback in defense expenditures.

"Our agency disagrees with the argument that Japan should hold down its defense expenditure because the world's major powers are showing the tendency to cut back their defense spending," he said in regards to the agency's stand on negotiating with the Finance Ministry on the fiscal 1992 defense budget.

The cabinet is scheduled to give initial approval on the fiscal 1992 defense budget on December 22.

Hiyoshi vehemently refuted the Finance Ministry's assertion that next fiscal year's growth in the defense budget should be reduced to a tad more than 3 percent.

He called for the ministry to approve at least a 4.4 percent increase in the defense budget for next year, in view of growing troop costs and to cover defense contracts whose disbursements had been committed to in preceding fiscal years.

He hinted that the agency may accept a compromise in which the agency's earlier budgetary request for a 5.38 percent increase in the 1992 defense budget may be somewhat curtailed.

Defense Agency Chief on U.S. Bases in Okinawa

OW1212083991 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 11 Dec 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Sohei Miyashita, Director-General of the Defense Agency, by unidentified reporter, in Tokyo on 10 December]

[Text] In an interview with RYUKYU SHIMPO on 10 December, Defense Agency Director-General Sohei Miyashita disclosed his views on issues concerning the U.S. military bases on Okinawa. He noted that with 75 percent of the U.S. forces' installations and land in Japan located on Okinawa, about 20 percent of Okinawa's main island is occupied by U.S. military bases; and he admitted, "there is no doubt the military bases are stumbling blocks to local area development."

Explaining that the government's task is to have the requirements of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the requirements of the local people "met in coexistence and harmony," he said that the government will do what it can. However, he added that he also needed the understanding of the local people on the given conditions. On the question of utilizing military land lots after their reversion to Japan, he said that "I want to put them into effective use in consultation with the offices concerned." He indicated that he was thinking of including a plan on the use of returned land in Okinawa's Third Development Plan, to be worked out by the Okinawa Development Agency. In saying that "it is important to grasp the actual conditions of the areas that bear the defense burdens," he indicated a strong desire to visit Okinawa while in office.

Speaking about the question of base reductions, Director-General Miyashita stressed the postition of pursuing the early return of 23 facilities under an agreement reached at a meeting of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee in June last year. He recalled that steps for the return of four facilities have been completed, with two of them actually returned. As for the remaining 19 bases, he said that "we want to proceed with their return while seeking local people's understanding and cooperation." On the possible return of other land, he said that "it is only natural that we should study" this.

Concerning the noise caused by the bases, he said that "it is natural that when an exercise is being conducted, appropriate precautions for the safety of local residents are taken as well as measures to minimize annoyance." He said he was willing to continue to devise annoyance-preventive measures around the bases by legisalting laws on improving the surrounding areas. He added that when he met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney last month, he asked the U.S. authorities to pay attention to Okinawan people's safety.

Touching on the activities of "the Liaison Committee of Concerned Ministries and Agencies on Issues concerning the Return of Bases," set up by 11 ministries and agencies in August, he said that committee meetings have been held to discuss various specific issues—including information on returned bases; to discuss the need for any reimbursements that may arise and the utilization of the returned land; and to hear the views of local landowners, residents, and requests from local governments. He also said the meetings will continue to be held as deemed appropriate. With regard to the so-called "Bill on Special Measures to Promote the Utilization of Military Land," proposed by the opposition party and referred to the House of Representatives' Special Committee on Okinawa, he indicated a negative view, saying: "In reality, it is desirable for matters to be handled case by case by new organizations concerned, rather than regulated in a uniform manner."

Regarding the possible impact [on Okinawa] from the closure of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, Miyashita gave a "prediction" saying: "I think a temporary (transfer) is possible, but this will not lead to the strengthening of U.S. military forces."

Concerning the peacekeeping operations bill, Director-General Miyashita said: "I can understand the Okinawan people's feelings opposing the dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] overseas." But he noted, that the bill stipulated that the SDF would only be dispatched after a cease-fire agreement had been reached and with the consent of the country to which the troops were to be sent, and that Japan could withdraw its troops when it so wished. Citing such preconditions, he said that "the bill is different from the peacekeeping operations bill proposed last year." He insisted that there was justification for seeking the understanding of the people on this.

Miyazawa Seeks 5-Year Economic Plan Compilation

OW1112134791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked Wednesday for the compilation of a fresh five-year economic blueprint to start in fiscal 1992 and mainly focus on improvement of living conditions.

Miyazawa gave an instruction to Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), to make preparations for deliberations of the plan by the Economic Council.

The Economic Council is an advisory panel of the prime minister, headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The issue is scheduled to be referred to the council January 14 and officials hope to have the council's recommendation by around next August.

Noda told a press conference after the meeting with Miyazawa that the government finds it necessary to review the current five-year plan in response to major changes that have occurred, like those in the Soviet Union, which were not predictable when the it was compiled three and a half years ago.

He said, "it is necessary to present to the people an updated fundamental policy of the Miyazawa administration, amid mounting new political issues."

The EPA chief listed three major points for the new plan—improving living conditions, organizing the basis of economic development toward the 21st century, and potential contributions to global peace and prosperity.

Officials said once the revised plan comes into effect, the current version will be abolished without waiting for its expiration at the end of fiscal 1992.

Government, LDP Agree on Public Spending Budget

OW1112125991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed to earmark 175 billion yen in the fiscal 1992 budget for public works projects, government officials said Wednesday.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato agreed in a meeting with top LDP officials, including Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki, to retain in the 1992 budget the 200 billion yen special outlay to boost the infrastructure.

Of the special outlay, 175 billion yen will be spent on public works projects such as sewage construction, and the remaining 25 billion yen will go to school construction and other projects, the officials said.

The government introduced the 200 billion special outlay in the fiscal 1991 budget in line with Japan's pledge in the structural impediments initiative talks with the United States to boost its infrastructure.

The top government and LDP officials left the details of the allocation of the expenditures to the LDP, they said.

The final plan for the outlays will be made by December 22, when the draft 1992 budget will be announced by the Finance Ministry.

Hata was quoted as saying at the meeting that he would like to have the budget focused on boosting the people's standard of living.

Officials 'Remain Split' on Opening Rice Market

OW1212124391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—With just a week to go before presentation of a draft agreement wrapping up five years of global trade talks, Japanese Government officials remain split over whether to open the nation's rice market.

The Farm Ministry, maintaining opposition to liberalization, was still at odds Thursday with some in the ruling party and Foreign Ministry who fear an unyielding Japan could be isolated internationally.

Yoshihiro Hamaguchi, vice minister of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, said Thursday his ministry has no plans to alter its opposition to a proposal that nontariff trade barriers such as import bans be converted to tariffs that could be reduced in the future.

The so-called tariffication idea is widely expected to be in the draft agreement to be put forward December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Our policy remains unchanged. Many countries such as Canada and Scandinavian countries are in the same position as Japan," Hamaguchi said, referring to those countries' opposition to tariffication. "Japan is not isolated."

Dunkel said Wednesday he will put the draft text on the negotiating table whether or not each of the 108 nations involved in the Uruguay Round of trade talks agrees to all its points.

Farm Ministry sources warned that the Japanese delegation to the Geneva talks might walk out if the draft supports tariffication.

But concern is growing within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the foreign ministry that Japan could be isolated in the talks, as progress has been reported between the United States and the European Community (EC) on differences over agriculture policies.

"It's highly possible that Japan will be left alone when the United States and the EC reach a compromise on the agriculture issue," said a Foreign Ministry source.

Sources close to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tokyo should act behind the scenes before Washington and Brussels reach such a compromise. They did not specify what action is needed.

Agriculture has been the major stumbling block to a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round, held under GATT auspices.

Trade Official on Tax Extension, Aid to Soviets

OW1212084591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry Yuji Tanahashi said Thursday the ministry will deal "carefully" with the proposed extension of a temporary tax due to expire next March.

Tanahashi told a press conference the ministry will study the proposal, called the international contribution tax, "while paying due consideration to voices in concerned industries."

Japanese business circles have opposed the tax, mooted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and involving the extension of the one-year hike in corporate, oil, and other taxes, introduced in April to fund Japan's contributions related with the Persian Gulf crisis. The proposal also calls for keeping the consumption tax on automobiles at 6 percent, despite the government's pledge to scrap from next April an extra 3 percent levy imposed on top of the ordinary 3 percent tax.

Tanahashi said the ministry favors in principle an end to the Gulf-linked special tax hike and a quick lowering of the consumption tax on auto vehicles.

"However, the words of the governing party carry such weight that the ministry has started studying the idea," he said.

Asked about Japan's aid to the disintegrating Soviet Union, Tanahashi said the government will go ahead with its planned insurance coverage for Japanese investment there, the first time in 12 years if realized. The country's 100 million dollar humanitarian aid, announced last year before the 2.5 billion dollar emergency aid package unveiled earlier this year, will also be disbursed as planned, he said.

But Tanahashi said the possibility of the dissolution of the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, which is in charge of external debt repayments, makes the government prudent about further assistance.

Vice Minister Meets Latvian Foreign Minister

OW1212060691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said Thursday that all 12 republics of the Soviet Union will join in a commonwealth proclaimed by the leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus.

Jurkans is the first Latvian leader to visit Japan since Latvia became independent from the Soviet Union in September.

In a meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Jurkans said Latvia will not participate in the Commonwealth of Independent States, as the new grouping is called.

Regarding the status of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Jurkans said Gorbachev has almost finished his role, indicating he may step down from the post soon.

Further on Visit by Thai Prime Minister Anan

Meets Bank Chairmen, Executives

BK1112025591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 91 p 17

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday assured top Japanese bankers of Thailand's prospects of sustaining high economic growth in the next four years and of becoming the region's trade and financial centre.

Mr Anan spoke at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo when the Thai delegation, comprising representatives from the Thai Bankers' Association, Board of Trade and Federation of Thai Industries, met chairmen and executives of 14 Japanese banks which have branches and representative offices in Bangkok.

Leading the group of 17 Japanese bankers at the meeting was Education of Bankers Association of Japan president Ken-ichi Suematsu who is also chairman of Mitsui Taiyo Kobe.

Bank of Thailand Governor Wichit Suphinit said after the meeting that Mr Anan had given the bankers confidence in the Thai economy by explaining the progress his Government had made and the future plans for the country.

"The Premier told the bankers the Government has been able to solve major problems faced by the Thai economy," Mr Wichit said.

"Various economic indicators, including the inflation rate, export growth rate, economic growth rate and the level of current account deficit, have shown signs of improvement since the middle of this year."

He quoted the Premier as saying that as the Thai economy had been progressing well, there was no need for the Government to resort to strict fiscal and monetary policies. "It's proven that the Government's economic liberalisation plicy is paying off well," Mr Wichit said.

"The Premier also told them that Thailand's economic growth for the next four years would remain high, while inflation and current-account deficit problems, which could rock the country's economic stability, would gradually be solved."

By the end of the Seventh Plan, Thailand's current-account deficit would be reduced from the current 7-8 percent of Gross Domestic Product to only 3.5 percent.

With such a high and stable growth, Thailand could look toward its next plan of becoming the region's trade and financial centre.

Mr Anan told the bankers that Thailand had good prospects of becoming a trade and financial centre for its four neighbours: Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Burma, Mr Wichit said.

The Premier also told them of Thailand's commitment to establish the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) which would help liberalise trade in this region, he said.

The establishment of AFTA is expected to be approved at the ASEAN Summit meeting to be held in January.

"So, Japan should become more active in establishing its trade, financial and economic ties with Thailand to make Thailand a financial centre for ASEAN and Indochina," Mr Wichit said.

The Premier was quoted as saying such a move would enable Thailand and Japan to become economic and financial partners, rather than Thailand depending on Japan as a "client."

Japan should be more confident of Thailand's economic prosperity in the next four to five years.

Mr Wichit said the Japanese bankers were quite interested in the Premier's statement that Thailand would become a regional financial centre.

"They asked quite a number of questions relating to the subject, and we told them about our liberalisation policy and what is expected to be liberalised further," he said.

Mr Wichit said that after such a briefing, it was obvious that Japanese banks would want to play a bigger role in Thailand.

The Japanese bankers asked if their earlier requests to set up mroe branches in Thailand would be possible under the Government's new policy, and the Premier told them that as soon as an agreement was reached at the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, Thailand would give access to more foreign banks, Mr Wichit said.

Comments on Political Future, Burma

BK1212004591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun reitereated yesterday he would not lead the next administration even though the new Constitution gives him a chance to do so.

"I will cross that bridge soon," said Mr Anan, who will soon complete his term as interim prime minister.

"And when I come to that, I no longer want to get involved further in politics," he told a gathering of local mass media representatives at the National Press Club of Japan in Tokyo yesterday.

He said his administration came into existence "by accident".

"I am not a politician by profession or by choice. I am a politician by necessity," he said.

Discussing the situation in Burma, Mr Anan said he regretted what was happening there.

But he did not criticise the Rangoon govenment for its refusal to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr Anan added that Asian people did not like being pressured nor bullying tactics, and Thailand, as a close neighbour of Burma, would choose its own way of dealing with Burma rather than adopting tactics used by other nations.

Concludes Visit, Leaves for U.S.

BK1112141391 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his delegation have concluded an official visit to Japan. The prime minister felt greatly touched by the warm welcome extended by the Japanese Government. The prime minister briefed a press conference in Tokyo before leaving for the United States at 1630 local time.

[Begin Anan recording] ...the Japanese emperor and empress hosted a luncheon for my delegation. I and the foreign minister were very delighted by this. My visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations with Japan. It is a good opportunity for me, in my capacity as Thai prime minister, to explain our policies and directions, concerning for instance: political cooperation between Thailand and Japan, the establishment of regional peace, and cooperation to help the reconstruction of Indochina. At the same time, I have also had a chance to meet with the top bankers and representatives from the Industry Council and the Automobile Manufacturers Association of Japan. The chairmen of several big companies, such as the chairman of C. Itoh, the chairman of the NTT Company, and the chairman of the Sumitomo Company, also called on me. All these persons whom I met were greatly interested in Thailand's economic situation and development. [end recording]

Miyazawa To 'Personally' Deal With Abe Scandal

OW1212064191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Diet's House of Councillors Budget Committee started deliberations today. On the issue concerning reports that Diet member Fumio Abe, secretary general of the Miyazawa faction, received large amounts of election funds from steel frame manufacturer Kyowa, which has been indicted for involvement in a major fraud case, Prime Minister Miyazawa stated that he will deal with the problem personally after hearing a briefing from Abe.

The Upper House Budget Committee was convened today after the supplementary budget for this year, including expenses to cover pay increases for national government employees and rehabilitation measures for typhoon damages, had passed the House of Representatives yesterday. In a query this morning, the Social Democratic Party's Sango Sato brought up the issue of reports' claiming Diet member Fumio Abe, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's Miyazawa faction, received large amounts of election funds from steel frame manufacturer Kyowa, which is being prosecuted by the Tokyo District Public Presecutors Office for bogus deals with the major trading firm Marubeni Corporation. He asked Prime Minister Miyazawa to deal with the matter in a serious fashion, including looking into the facts, since Abe is the secretary general of the Miyazawa faction.

Prime Minister Miyazawa responded that he knows about the contents of the reports on Diet member Abe's relations with Kyowa. He said: On my part, the chief cabinet secretary or myself hope to hear a briefing from Abe directly. I hope to talk to him as soon as possible and become acquainted with his feelings as a friend. I would also like to give him my opinion. He indicated his intention to deal with the matter personally.

Abe Resigns Over Scandal

OW1212050091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—The secretary general of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) handed in his resignation from the post Thursday following reports that he received large amounts of money from a now bankrupt firm, party officials said.

Fumio Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agency and a member of the House of Representatives, allegedly received amounts reported as ranging between 20 million yen and 100 million yen from Kyowa Corp., a steel frame manufacturer which went bankrupt in November last year with debts of some 200 billion yen.

Some of the money was for the campaign for the February 1990 general election.

Employees of Kyowa's local branch office were also allegedly mobilized as election campaigners at Abe's office in Hakodate, Hokkaido, during the election.

Abe also allegedly called on the company to pay 42 million yen to cover his office's operating costs after the election.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Monday, Abe denied the allegations but acknowledged he had received 100,000 yen a month, or 1.2 million yen a year from Kyowa, as a political donation.

The Monday morning edition of the MAINICHI SHIMBUN newspaper reported that Abe told the newspaper he had received 100 million yen from Kyowa.

Five people, including former officials of Kyowa and Marubeni Corp., a major trading company, are now on trial at the Tokyo district court in a 6.8 billion yen fraud case.

They allegedly conspired to defraud Iida Sangyo Co., a now bankrupt Fukuoka-based trading company, Nissho Iwai Corp., and the Okafuji Shoji Co., by setting up bogus steel deals.

Opposition Parties Seek Recruit Contract Papers

OW1112150391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Opposition parties on Wednesday rapped four Cabinet ministers' submissions of documents relating to the Recruit shares scandal for omitting crucial sales contracts with Recruit Cosmos, the company at the center of the scandal.

In 1986 Recruit Cosmos Co. sold pre-listed shares at bargain prices to ministers' aides and relatives, who raked in huge profits by quickly selling them on the over-the-counter market.

The parties said the sales contracts are indispensable, as their submission would enable the opposition to check the truth of statements by ministers denying direct involvement in the share deals.

The parties made their criticism at a joint news conference at the Diet building after scrutinizing several documents submitted by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato at a room in the House of Councillors. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also resubmitted his documents.

The documents attest to the flow of profits from the quick sales of pre-listed shares of Recruit Cosmos, a subsidiary of Recruit Co., to each minister's bank account or those of their aides.

The disaffected opposition parties vowed to demand that the Diet issue subpoenas to Miyazawa, the premier's former political secretary and treasurer, and some Recruit officials implicated in the scandal in order to have them testify as sworn witnesses.

House Legislator Kazunobu Takai told reporters, "the submitted documents are mere certificates issued (later by banks) to verify their payments in purchasing the shares and the remittance of profits from the share sales. We demand the submission of original sales contracts."

Wataru Kubo, a legislator with the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), said, "the fact that (Miyazawa's former secretary Tsuneo) Hattori had 52 million yen in sales proceeds remitted to a bank account opened immediately before the remittance evidences the Miyazawa side's awareness of the questionable nature of the money."

The foreign minister told reporters his eldest son, Yoshimi Watanabe, his one-time political secretary who received 11 million yen in sales profits from Recruit, "had thrown away the sales contract as he judged the document was unnecessary."

The posts and telecommunications minister came under fire because the bank certificate he submitted showed that 22 million yen in profits was remitted by Recruit to his personal bank account at Tokai Bank Ltd.'s Akasaka branch, contrary to his earlier testimony.

Earlier in September 1988, Watanabe said his secretary, but not himself, conducted the share transaction using the name of Watanabe "out of his feeling of allegiance to me."

Koichi Kato submitted a set of documents, including a loan contract that verified he had borrowed money to finance the purchase of Recruit Cosmos shares from first finance, a financing subsidiary of the Recruit conglomerate.

Kato defended the insufficiency of his set of documents, explaining his failure to find the sales contract as "poor filing at my political office."

"When the Recruit affair broke out, I could not understand why it stirred up such an outcry," he said. "Now I know that public aversion to politicians' receiving (questionable) money is more serious than we politicians had imagined."

Report Calls For New Broadcasting Satellite

OW1012144291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan should launch another broadcasting satellite at an early date to help three domestic satellite broadcasters maintain full program schedules, a government report said Tuesday.

The proposal, contained in a Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications report, endorsed efforts by the public Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) and commercial Japan Satellite Broadcasting (JSB) to launch a new satellite.

NHK currently operates two satellite TV channels and JSB runs a pay satellite TV station. Their programs are transmitted to homes around the country via the BS3A satellite launched in 1990 and the BS3B sent into orbit earlier this year.

A partial failure in a solar power battery system built in the BS3A, however, has made it difficult for the broadcasters to maintain full program schedules.

The report said the failure makes it less likely that the three satellite channels can be maintained with the current satellites, which are due to lose power by 1997.

The ministry initially projected a 94 percent possibility that the three channels can remain on the air until then, but a more recent ministry estimate lowered the figure to 82 percent due to the failed solar power system.

Fisheries Production Declines for 1990

OW0912101691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The total production value of Japan's fisheries and marine culture industries in 1990 came to 2,724.3 billion yen, up a mere 1 percent from the previous year, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said Monday.

In terms of volume, total production declined 7 percent but higher consumer prices pushed up the value, the ministry said.

Surface production was nearly unchanged from the previous year at 1,952.4 billion yen. Offshore fishing rose 7 percent, while the yield from coastal fishing rose 2 percent to a record high of 804.9 billion yen.

Deep-sea fishing production plunged 13 percent due to sluggish trawl operations, it said.

The saury catch jumped 59 percent, while that for various shellfish rose 12 percent. Tuna and kelp yields declined.

The overall production value in the marine culture industry rose 8 percent to 609.3 billion yen with the help of higher pearl prices, the ministry said.

North Korea

Yon Hyong-muk Keynote Speech at 11 Dec Talks

SK1212030091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Keynote speech" by Yon Hyong-muk, DPRK premier and head of the North delegation, at the fifth North-South high-level talks at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in Seoul on the morning of 11 December—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and delegates of the South side:

The fourth talks held last October produced the first result, small as it is, after one year of painstaking discussion. By doing so the fourth talks shed a ray of hope on the once dark future of our talks and also gave some feeling of relief to the people at home and abroad who had been following the talks with apprehension.

At the fourth talks the two sides decided to adopt one document of agreement and reached an agreement on its title and subtitles. Although it is no more than an opening for making an agreement, this is very important and valuable in that it overcame difficulties in the first process of the talks and is the first fruit of the talks.

Now we are confronted with the task of further expanding and developing this positive result by deepening our discussion and extending the scope of agreement.

In particular, at the current fifth talks we shall have to finish our negotiations on the agreement on North-South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange which is at the final stage and thus decisively put our talks onto a new track.

Expressing my hope that the current fifth talks will be a milestone in opening up a bright future for us and in creating a favorable precondition for bringing about peace in the country as well as for peaceful reunification, I especially emphasize the need for both sides to make open-minded and sincere efforts for the success of today's talks.

Delegates of the South side:

The fourth talks opened up the possibility of breaking the past deadlock and hope for the success of the fifth talks. However, subsequent developments were disappointing.

Frankly speaking, the development of the situation at the talks and outside them following the fourth talks casts a dark shadow on the fifth talks and the hope for the success of the talks has again become vague.

All our countrymen who are now following our talks are greatly disappointed at the unsatisfactory result of the contact of the delegates of the sides and at today's tense situation. They are expressing their concern, already guessing the result of the fifth talks.

In connection with this, we cannot but mention first the result of the contacts between the delegates of the sides on four occasions.

We appreciate the fact that the contacts have made some advance in the work of arranging the text of the agreement, and express our thanks to the delegates of both sides for the efforts they have made to this end.

However, we regret the fact that the contact of the delegates ended halfway without reaching an agreement on a number of problems.

The whole course of the contact of the delegates held on four occasions clearly showed the contradictory stand and attitude of both sides towards the talks.

Our side did everything possible to finish the arrangement of the text of the document at the contacts so that at the fifth talks both sides would be able to sign the agreement with a happy feeling.

In order to reach an easy agreement between the sides, our side proposed at the fourth talks a draft agreement omitting those items which the other side would find difficult to accept or those which might cause argument and incorporating only those which are common in proposals of both sides. And, at each of the contacts, we advanced new compromise suggestions, taking into consideration your side's opinion and sought agreement.

Fairly speaking, the advance made at the contact of the delegates was attributable mostly to the concessions of our side.

If your side had responded to our consistent sincerity with sincerity, the arrangement of the text of the agreement would have been finished without difficulty.

However, from the beginning to the end your side continually insisted upon a number of unreasonable items which could not be accepted by us and did not respond to our compromise suggestions.

At the fourth contact, the last one, our side expressed our readiness to make further concession and hoped that your side would respond to this. However, your side refused to respond even to our last manifestation of sincerity, saying that you had nothing to concede.

As we can see by comparing the final draft agreements proposed by the sides, all the pending items which are now points at issue between us are to be found only in the draft of your side; none of them is to be found in our side's draft.

This fact shows clearly and contrastingly the sincere attitude of our side which has made repeated concessions, and the stubborn attitude of your side which has unilaterally insisted only upon its proposal irrespective of the destiny of the agreement.

Today we look back upon the contact of the delegates for the arrangement of the text of the agreement neither to find out each other's mistake and call each other to account nor to blame your side for its unreasonable act of shifting the responsibility for the mistake onto others, distorting stark facts. We do so only out of the desire to learn a lesson from the past talks and make our future discussion smooth by developing the spirit of mutual concession. One must neither mistake concession for submission nor think it shameful. It is the elementary moral and noble attribute of our talks to make mutual concessions apart from one's own interests in promoting common national interests.

The stubbornness expressed in giving precedence only to one side's interests and insisting upon them runs counter to the logic and morality of the talks. This can be interpreted as an expression of haughtiness towards the other side.

If such an attitude is maintained, no success can ever be expected at our talks.

Another factor that dims the hope for the current fifth talks is the attitude of your side, which is continually making the situation tense.

As your side well knows, an important task facing North-South high-level talks is to remove military confrontation between the North and the South and ease the tension. Toward this end we are now discussing the agreement on North-South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange that will reflect each other's desire for peace.

If your side sincerely values our talks and wishes their successful progress, it should not do anything running counter to them, or should at least refrain from such an act.

However, no sooner had the fourth talks finished than your side staged large-scale joint military manoeuvres Eagle 91 with the U.S. troops. This clamorous military exercise which was staged throughout South Korea with the mobilization of even U.S. special warfare forces from abroad is a very provocative military action aimed at instilling anticommunist and anti-Republic feelings into the South Korean people and at the same time attacking us by surprise by making the fiction of threat of southward aggression an established fact.

We can not understand why your side is still staging without hesitation an exercise which stimulates the confrontation between North and South and strains the situation on the pretext that it is an annual event, and defensive. To tell the truth, we cannot but think that your side is not interested in the talks but in war, or if not, your side is dealing with us by peace-and-war tactics.

This was all the more clearly proven by the fact that at the recent annual Security Consultative Meeting with the United States your side signed the Wartime Support Agreement and jointly discussed the pressure and threatening measures against us while openly aggravating the tension.

The Wartime Support Agreement is a serious matter in that it threatens the South Korean people's right to existence and increases South Korea's dependence on the United States; it also poses a serious problem from the point of view of the relations between North and South.

This military agreement that has been concluded with the United States still regarding us as an enemy is, in essence, a new, dangerous war document that sharpens the North-South military confrontation and stimulates the atmosphere of war.

The fact that your side has unhesitatingly signed such an agreement that agoes against peace and history throws cold water upon our talks for reconciliation and peace and keeps the North-South relations within the old framework of cold war; it is making your side's will for peace more doubtful.

If your side has no will for peace, what can be settled between us at this table? If our talks end up in a drama which only fools public opinion, such talks are, in fact, useless.

As we have repeatedly warned, your side should refrain from trying to force anything on us or to settle issues by force, from the position of confrontation, with the backing of a big power. Such an attitude will not work upon us.

The matter of North-South relations and the question of reunification, which are internal affairs of our nation must, in any case, be settled peacefully through dialogue.

Therefore, I urge your side again not to be interested in aggravating the tension but to take a faithful attitude to our talks for reconciliation and peace between North and South and to show in deeds the will for peace, instead of paying lip service to it.

Delegates of the South side: The nuclear question on the Korean peninsula is a matter that affects the fate of all our countrymen and our posterity, a question that affects the survival of our nation, and a serious question that affects the peace and security of Asia.

This question is attracting greater attention from the public at home and abroad and the world regards the settlement of this question as one of the major links in the worldwide antinuclear peace cause.

In view of the importance of this question, we have strongly demanded the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea from the first day of their deployment; we have put forward a proposal on making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone; and have made consistent efforts for its realization. However, all these efforts have not evoked due response either from the United States or from your side.

As a result, we have been a target of nuclear blackmail by the United States for over 30 years and the South Korean people and all our fellow countrymen have been held in nuclear hostage by the United States in spite of themselves.

The situation has now changed.

The fact that the United States has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea has been recognized by the public and now the U.S. itself says that it will withdraw them.

Therefore, it can be said that whether the nuclear question in our country is settled or not depends on our own, independent efforts.

Considering this situation, we made an urgent proposal to adopt a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at the fourth session of the talks. This proposal opens the way to a most thoroughgoing settlement of the nuclear question in our country, one of the most outstanding issues for our nation, and to warding off the danger of the nuclear holocaust that threatens our nation.

Our proposal contains all the elements that can substantially guarantee denuclearization, and elements that can effect and verify the complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons which have been deployed and are threatening our nation. It also contains elements that can guarantee that the North and the South refrain from having nuclear weapons, discharge the obligation of simultaneous nuclear inspection under international treaty, that prohibit the shipment of foreign nuclear weapons into our territory, and that ensure that the nuclear powers respect the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

If all this is realized, the denuclearization of our country will be most thoroughly and dependably ensured, and both the North and the South will be free from the fear of nuclear weapons.

The declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula we have proposed will settle the nuclear issue in our country most fairly.

The nuclear issue in our country was caused by the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, and the question of these U.S. nuclear weapons still constitutes the main content of the nuclear issue in our country.

Nevertheless, to talk about unilateral nuclear inspection, putting aside the question of the U.S. nuclear weapons and taking issue with fictitious nuclear development in the North, is in no way fair.

Worse still, the clamour for forced inspection can be likened to a man trying to search another man's pocket by force. This is a naked interference in the affairs of an independent and sovereign state and an intolerable insult to us.

The task of our nation at the moment is to settle the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula as a whole, and this cannot be discussed apart from the question of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

If the issue is to be settled fairly and reasonably, the U.S. nuclear weapons which have been deployed in South Korea and are creating danger must naturally be withdrawn first and then, on this basis, the North and the South should discharge the obligation of simultaneous nuclear inspection.

If our fair proposal for denuclearization is put into effect, both sides will be able to dispel doubt and distrust smoothly while respecting each other; remove all nuclear threat, actual or potential; and both the United States, a nuclear power, and we, a non-nuclear country, will be able to fulfill their treaty obligations.

The earliest realization of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has become a requirement today, and we have the full possibility for this.

The United States has declared that it will withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, and we also will accept nuclear inspection.

Particularly, in the statement of the Foreign Ministry dated 25 November this year, we made a reasonable proposal to effect simultaneously the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and the inspection of our nuclear facilities.

After we made this proposal your side advanced, though belatedly, a declaration on the denuclearization in the form of a unilateral proclamation. Your side's declaration has limitations in several respects; nevertheless, this expression of your side's willingness for denuclearization, the first of its kind, is a step forward on the part of your side which has so far remained silent on this issue.

The way is open for the North and the South to discuss and settle the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

To express the will for denuclearization in the form of unilateral proclamation as your side did recently is good, but the nuclear issue in which the North and the South are interested and which affects the destiny of the nation must be settled by both sides through sincere discussion.

The draft declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula which we put forward as an urgent proposal at the fourth session of the talks is precisely the basic document that envisaged such discussions.

Therefore, I remind your side of the draft declaration at today's session and propose that your side discuss the matter.

Declarationof the Denuclarization of the Korean Peninsula (Draft):

To remove the danger of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula, to contribute to peace in our country, Asia, and the rest of the world, and to create favorable preconditions for the peaceful reunification of the country, the North and the South declare as follows:

Article 1. The North and the South shall not test, manufacture, introduce, possess, or use nuclear weapons.

Article 2. The North and the South shall prohibit the deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and in its territory and the passage, landing, and port call of aircraft and warships—which carry nuclear weapons or which are capable of carrying them—through or in its airspace or territorial waters.

Article 3. The North and the South shall not conclude with foreign countries any agreement which allows the deployment and stockpiling of nuclear weapons in their regions and which accepts the offer of a nuclear umbrella.

Article 4. The North and the South shall not stage any war exercise under the simulated condition of a nuclear war in which nuclear weapons and equipment are mobilized on the Korean peninsula and in its territory.

Article 5. The North and the South shall make joint efforts to withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons and U.S. forces in the South of the Korean peninsula and to dismantle nuclear bases.

Article 6. The North and the South shall jointly verify the total and complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and the removal of nuclear bases, discharge the duty of simultaneous nuclear inspection as required by the international treaty, and publish at home and abroad the declaration of the Korean peninsula.

Article 7. The North and the South shall take external measures so that the United States and the nuclear-possessing nations around the Korean peninsula can not pose a nuclear threat to our country but respect the status of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

Article 8. The North and the South shall form a joint organization in a short time after the publication of the declaration to implement this declaration.

Article 9. This declaration shall come into effect from the date when the North and the South exchange their texts after going through necessary procedures for its effectuation.

Yon Hyong-muk, head of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, and premier of the DPRK Administration Council;

Chong Won-sik, chief delegate of the South delegation to the South-North high-level talks, and prime minister of the ROK;
1991

As was pointed out earlier, we are sure that the declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is a reliable guarantee for thoroughly and fairly solving the nuclear issue in our country. However, since this document is just proposed as a basis for consultation, we are ready to consider your side's opinions and, if necessary, to supplement our declaration with the content of your side's declaration on denuclearization.

If your side wishes, the contents of the declarations proposed by both sides can be integrated into one document as a joint declaration. I think your side will have no reason to refuse our sincere proposal advanced to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula should not be delayed any longer.

It was a great sin against the nation to have introduced nuclear weapons from the outside, disregarding the danger to all fellow countrymen from a nuclear holocaust, and in the past to have, along with foreign forces, threatened fellow countrymen with nuclear weapons. Refusing to resolve such a grave situation even today, when the solution to the problems has become matured, is an indelible crime that cannot be atoned for at any cost.

Now that the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea has become an established fact, people will not want to live as others' nuclear hostages as they did in the past.

In our country where peace is not preserved and where the North and the South are in sharp military confrontation, our fellow countrymen cannot live in peace as long as either the North or the South keeps nuclear weapons. Our denuclearization proposal to remove all these insecure factors completely is quite justifiable. If your side does not accept even this just proposal, your desire for denuclearization, which you have made public, will become an empty statement, and in the long run, it will mean deceiving yourself. I sincerely hope that your side will readily respond to our proposal for denuclearization and that this urgent matter will be settled at the earliest possible date.

Delegates of the South side: The matter of adopting an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South on which we agreed at the fourth round of talks must continue to be discussed at the current talks because the text has not been finalized during the delegates' contacts.

There are some issues in the discussion on the single agreement where a consensus has not been reached. Among them are matters related to the expression of the provisions, their position and order of arrangement, and their content, of which the major controversial issue between the two sides is the content of the provisions.

Considering that when the matters related to the contents of the provisions are discussed and settled at the current talks, agreements on other matters can be reached without difficulty, I would like to tell you first our opinions on some provisions which are essential.

First is the matter of Article 5 of the draft agreement of your side, which specifies that the present state of armistice should be turned into the state of peace between the North and the South and, until then, the present Armistice Agreement should be observed. Turning the present state of armistice between the North and the South into a state of peace means, from the legal point of view, changing the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement between the North and the South, and is merely a change of expression.

The conversion of armistice into peace and of the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement is, without doubt, an immediate need in our country. However, the replacement of a cease-fire with an enduring peace is not a matter to be settled between the North and the South. Moreover, the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is not a matter to be settled through our consultation with your side.

The achievement of peace in our country needs to consider not only the relations between us and your side but also those between us and the United States, which is directly responsible. In particular, the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is a matter which must be settled between ourselves and the United States, which are the signatories to the Armistice Agreement.

We are not opposed and appreciate your insistence taht the North and the South play the major role in achieving peace in our country. But we cannot but doubt your sincerity because you still want to be under the military protection of the United States. As long as your side remains in such a position in its relations with the United States, the conclusion of a peace agreement with your country [*kiguk*] is out of question, and even if the agreement is concluded we cannot expect its effectiveness.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the establishment of the liaison offices in Seoul and Pyongyang suggested in Article 7 of your draft agreement. We always hold that Korea is one and that North-South relations are not relations between states, but relations within a nation. Your side has clearly acknowledged that the North-South relations are not relations between states.

Why then is it necessary to establish in the administrative center of the other side an office plenipotentiary which is, in practice, to be used only in relations between states? I do not have a clear idea yet about what position and mission the liaison office would be vested with. But I am sure that the office would not be like a business branch of an enterprise. No doubt it would function as an institute of political character. We believe that the establishment of such an agency, which symbolizes the existence of two Koreas, will be incompatible with the efforts toward achieving national reunification.

Your side gives the businesslike explanation that the establishment of liaison offices will facilitate visits and communications which will become frequent. But, even if the liaison office is not set up, we do not need to worry about the convenience of visitors. Considering that one can visit any place in a single day in our country and that, furthermore, all the necessary measures for ensuring communications and travel are expected to be taken, we think that there is no need to set up liaison offices and to conduct consultation or liaison business indirectly through them.

Thirdly, the problem of building military confidence and disarmament which is contained in Article 12 of your draft agreement: The article on disarmament contained in the draft agreement of both sides is of vital importance as it practically guarantees nonaggression.

However, in Article 12 of your draft agreement, your side gives priority to the building of military confidence over disarmament. The experience in Europe shows that the building of military confidence took more than 10 years. Accordingly, the building of military confidence through stages is not applicable to our country where both sides are in a state of acute military confrontation and where the elimination of confrontation is a pressing need.

If we blindly follow the European way which is unsuitable for us and carry out the building of military confidence before achieving diarmament, this implies that both sides will maintain the present strength of large armed forces for a long time in the future or will further increase it. Then we cannot resolve the crucial issue of nonaggression between the North and the South and there is no need to discuss the matter of nonaggression.

Our fellow countrymen desire to achieve reunification by the year 1995, or within the 1990s. If we allow time to drag on by setting stages for building military confrontation and then effect disarmament, we cannot solve the problem of peace, let alone achieve peaceful reunification in the 1990s.

We don't agree with the steps your side wants to take to build military confidence, which is detailed in your draft. If the present military confrontation is left as it is, we cannot practically guarantee nonaggression, even if the exchange of servicemen, the notification and observation of military exercises, the exchange of military information, and on-the-spot verification are realized between both sides as your side has suggested.

These steps may contribute to easing military tension. But they may contribute to aggravating military confrontation, and no one can anticipate the result. Your side contends that these steps will help widen the degree of opening in the military area between the sides. However, in the military area, where secrecy is valued more than in any other areas, widening the degree of opening is limited and such an opening is essentially not significant.

Fourthly, the opening and exchange of the mass media, referred to in Article 14 of your draft agreement: We have no objection to the realization of cooperation and exchange in various social fields between the North and the South. So, we want to realize cooperation and exchange in the mass media. But we are against the opening of newspapers, radio and television services, and publications.

Imbuing people with gracious and noble mental and moral features and enabling them to enjoy a sound civilized life is an important policy in every country. But it is not easy to achieve this practically. In this regard, we have great national dignity and pride. In our country, all the people are firmly united and cooperate with each other as comrades. They work and live in a healthy manner. They are never affected by social evils which are prevalent in capitalist society. There is no other country which has so successfully solved the problem of young people and children as our country. We oppose the opening of such mass media as newspapers, radio and television services, and publications to protect our clean society from pollution by stinking and corrupt culture.

Of course, we accept anything sound and healthy but we do not want the infiltration of decayed and degenerate things into our society. In particular, our parents resolutely oppose it as they worry about its bad effect on their sons and daughters.

Fifthly, I would like to refer to Article 22 of your draft agreement on the mutual relations between the agreement we shall adopt and the treaties and agreements both sides have already concluded with other countries.

I consider it necessary to formulate these relations. But your draft agreement gives priority to the treaties and agreements concluded with other countries over the agreement we shall adopt. This is putting the cart before the horse, which is clear to everyone.

The agreement we shall adopt this time is not a treaty or an agreement between states. It aims to attain the common goal of the same nation and meet its common interests, and it embodies the greatest desire of the nation for peace and reunification. There can be no treaty and agreement more important to us than this agreement, I dare say.

Giving priority to the treaties and agreements with foreign countries over our agreement means that the fulfillment of the treaties and agreements with other countries is more important to you than the cause of national peace and reunification and that you intend to carry them out even if you hinder national peace and reunification. Then, how are you going to guarantee the implementation to the letter of the agreement precisely and what is the need of adopting an agreement you cannot implement?

Furthermore, the treaties and agreements with other countries are products of the past era of confrontation. So we cannot but take issue with giving priority to such treaties and agreements.

Giving priority to relations with other countries over the common interests of the nation means the loss of national identity; attaching the importance of the agreement not to national reconciliation and peace but to the fulfillment of treaties and agreements with other countries for confrontation is obviously a manifestation of the conception of confrontation.

Therefore, if we are to define correctly the mutual relations between the agreement we shall adopt and the treaties and agreements already concluded with other countries, we must give priority to our agreement.

I have given in the above our opinions on some problematic articles of your draft agreement. I cannot consider it accidental that you have insisted on aforementioned articles. These articles clearly reflect something important, in other words, your stance and attitude toward peace, reunification, and foreign forces.

What we must point out in this context is, above all, that your stance toward peace is still dubious. Down through history, your side has paid little attention to solving the problem of peace in our country and has evaded debate on military issues.

In the light of such a past, we can say that it is a good change that you sit with us, discuss nonaggression, and speak about disarmament. But we consider that you are still indistinct in your attitude toward peace, nonaggression, and disarmament, and there is no substantial change, contrary to your words.

You say in words that you do not oppose the adoption of a nonaggression declaration proposed by us. But you raised the basic agreement on the improvement of the North-South relations as a precondition and delayed the debates on it. And now that you cannot evade the debate on nonaggression any more, you, insisting on confidence-building first and disarmament next, put aside disarmament and are trying to delay an agreement on nonaggression.

This attitude toward nonaggression and disarmament manifested so far shows clearly that your side does not want the early solution of the peace problem.

You must not try to delay the solution of the peace problem by raising various reasons and pretexts.

The solution of the peace problem in our country is the most urgent issue to which we cannot attach any precondition.

Unless peace comes to this land, our people can never escape pain and apprehension and the heavy burdens that sacrifice their lives, nor can we realize free travel, exchange, and reunification which we are now discussing.

We must take to heart the reality of this country whose people suffer from the tragic national division, face the danger of war, and strive every minute and second to bring peace as soon as possible. This is today's real patriotism.

Closing one's eyes to such reality and delaying the solution of the peace problem is a grave crime increasing the misfortune of the nation. Those who love the country must not hesitate to solve the peace problem. To solve the peace problem, we must declare nonaggression without delay and take an attitude of carrying out disarmament. If your side takes a clear and positive stance toward solution of the peace problem, there will be no big problem at the talks with us.

Another point we must mention with regard to your stance is that—as ever—you still refuse to abandon your divisive stance. It is well known that since your side officially declared the two Koreas policy you have tried in every way to legalize and freeze the national division.

Your side still does not renounce this two Koreas policy, and after your UN entry you are trying to legalize the mutual relations between the North and the South as those between states.

At the first session of the North-South high-level talks, your side advanced a divisive draft basic agreement on the North-South relations and is now attempting to include a number of contents making two Koreas an established fact in the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between the North and the South, which the two sides are discussing.

This is clear from the facts that you proposed to use the official names of both sides in writing the title of the agreement, to treat possible disputes between the North and the South like disputes between states and solve them according to the UN Charter, and to set up permanent missions or liaison offices in Seoul and Pyongyang.

Your side agreed to our opinion that North and the South relations are not those between states, but—as ever—still insists on divisive contents, contrary to it. This shows your side's negative stand and dubious position toward reunification.

Clearly, the line for reunification and the divisive line and the one Korea policy and the two Koreas policy cannot be consistent with each other.

To achieve reunification, one should not attempt to legalize and freeze the division but should abandon the two Koreas policy. If one shows a dubious attitude toward this basic question, today's discussions cannot be carried out properly, and even if today's crisis is overcome, one cannot escape a number of crises and differences in opinions that will possibly take place in the future.

To overcome today's crisis and proceeding from the wish to jointly open the difficult road to peace and reunification of the nation, I urge your side to renounce the position of two Koreas and take the precise attitude for reunification.

I wish to mention the attitude of depending on foreign forces without independence. Both for men and for the nation, independence is life. Today's rapidly changing world situation clearly proves how foolish and how dangerous it is to live by depending on other people and how important defending the nation's independence is.

It is important to talk about a nation's GNP and world ranking in terms of exports. However, if the fate of such a nation is seized by other people and is maintained only under the military protection of other people, this nation is rather disgraceful, and its splendid economic figures will end only in vain appearances.

However, your side has not discarded the policy of dependence on foreign forces—even today ignoring this solemn truth.

This is shown by the fact that your side gives priority to the treaties and agreements concluded with foreign countries over the agreement to be adopted between us and that your side demanded continuous implementation of the U.S. security commitment so that your side would remain under U.S. military protection. Since the United States said it would withdraw tactical nuclear weapons, your side wants under the umbrella of its strategic nuclear weapons. This is also one such expression.

Your side should realize that treasuring so-called blood alliance with the United States more than unity between fellow countrymen and strengthening military ties with the United States against the same people are not just, even from the national standpoint, and will severely damage the authority of your side.

Your side raised the issue of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement between the North and the South. However, to have such power], your side should free itself from dependence on the United States and should put an end to the special position of the United States in South Korea.

If your side recovers its own independence, just as we regard national independence as life, we can independently and smoothly resolve issues pertaining to the peace and reunification of the nation based on common national ideals.

Correcting your side's erroneous position on the issues of peace, reunification, and foreign forces is essential to successfully adopting the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange. We sincerely hope that from the national standpoint, your side again ponders these issues and boldly frees itself from outdated habits and past positions.

We attach great importance to the current fifth talks. Although there may be controversies and difficult problems, we hope that the two sides will reach agreement through sincere efforts and sign the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between the North and the South which has historic significance.

As for this point, we think that your side's idea is not different from ours. However, success of the current talks, to which all of us are aspiring, cannot be achieved only by one side's effort and concession.

As for us, we are ready to narrow differences of opinion over the issue on composition of provisions which reveal mutual differences in views, over the issue of position and order of arrangement of provisions, and over all issues pertaining to content of provisions. In particular, we are ready to compromise over turning the armistice status into peace status, which has been an important issue for debate; building military trust; establishing liaison offices; opening and exchanges involving the press, broadcasting, television, and publications; mutual relations between the document of agreement and existing treaties and agreements; and forming joint committees as executive organizations for what has been agreed on.

In the belief that your side will show an attitude corresponding to our sincerity, I would like to put forward our new draft of agreement which accepted to a large degree the contents of your side's draft of agreement. Our new draft is:

The draft of agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange between the North and the South:

According to the intent of all fellow countrymen who aspire to the peaceful reunification of the divided fatherland, the North and the South reaffirm the three principles for national reunification expounded in the 4 July joint statement. Based on this, the North and the South pledge to achieve national reconciliation and unity by eliminating political and military confrontation; to ease tension and guarantee peace by preventing aggression and clashes by armed forces; to promote the nation's common interests and prosperity by realizing multilateral cooperation and exchanges; to recognize that the relations between the two sides are not those between states but special relations provisionally formed in the course of advancing toward reunification and to make joint efforts to achieve the peaceful reunification. The North and the South have agreed on the following:

1. North-South Reconciliation.

Article 1. The North and South shall recognize and respect the system that exist on the other side.

Article 2. The North and South shall refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other side.

Article 3. The North and South shall cease to abuse and slander the other side.

Article 4. The North and South shall refrain from all acts aimed at destroying and overthrowing the other side.

Article 5. The North and South shall discontinue confrontation and competition and promote cooperation between them in the international arena and make joint efforts for the nation's dignity and interest.

Article 6. The North and South shall form and operate liaison offices in Panmunjom within six months after the publication of this agreement to closely contact the other side and hold discussions quickly.

Article 7. The North and South shall form a North-South political subcommittee within one month after the publication of this agreement, which is in accordance with the framework of the current talks to discuss measures for the implementation of the agreement on North-South reconciliation.

2. North-South Nonaggression.

Article 8. The North and South shall not use arms against the other side, nor shall they infringe upon the other by force of arms.

Article 9. The North and South shall settle any differences and disputes between them peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

Article 10. The North and South shall designate the Military Demarcation Line established in the Agreement on the Military Armistice in Korea dated July 27, 1953 and the area which both sides have exercised the jurisdiction over up till now, as the North-South nonaggression demarcation line.

Article 11. The North and South shall halt their arms race and simultaneously carry out military-confidence building and disarmament to firmly guarantee nonaggression.

Article 12. The North and South shall, for the present, install and operate direct telephone lines between the military authorities of the two sides to prevent the outbreak and escalation of accidental armed conflicts.

Article 13. The North and South shall form and operate a North- South joint military committee within six months after the publication of this agreement to implement the nonaggression agreement.

Article 14. The North and South shall make joint efforts to turn the armistice into solid peace.

Article 15. The North and South shall form a North-South military subcommittee within one month after the publication of this agreement, which is in accordance with the framework of the current talks, to discuss concrete measures for the implementation of the nonaggression agreement and to remove military confrontation.

3. North-South Cooperation and Exchange

Article 16. The North and South shall effect economic cooperation and exchange, including the joint development of resources, joint venture projects, and exchange of goods within the nation, for the coordinated development of the national economy and for the promotion of the whole nation's well-being.

Article 17. The North and South shall effect cooperation and exchange in various fields, including the fields of science, technology, education, literature and art, public health, sports, and publication and the press including the newspaper, radio, television, and publications.

Article 18. The North and South shall effect free visits and contact by people from all walks of life and the fellow countrymen.

Article 19. The North and South shall effect humanitarian mutual cooperation and exchange and take steps to effect free visits and meetings among separated families and relatives, exchange of letters, and reunions with each other through their free will.

Article 20. The North and South shall connect the severed railways and roads and open sea and air routes.

Article 21. The North and South shall install and connect necessary facilities for exchanging mail, electricity, and communications, and guarantee privacy in these exchanges.

Article 22. The North and South shall cooperate in various fields, including economic and cultural, in the international arena to jointly advance internationally.

Article 23. The North and South shall form partial joint committees, such as the North-South joint economic cooperation committee within six months after the publication of this agreement, to implement the agreement on effecting cooperation and exchange in various fields, including economic and cultural.

Article 24. The North and South shall form a North-South cooperation and exchange subcommittee within one month after the publication of this agreement, in accordance with the framework of the current talks, to discuss measures for implementing the agreement on North-South cooperation and exchange.

4. Amendments and Validity

Article 25. This agreement can be amended and supplemented with the two sides' mutual consent.

Article 26. This agreement shall enter into force from the day the North and South exchange its text after each goes through the necessary formalities.

Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK and head of the North side delegation to the North-South high-level talks;

Chong Won-sik, prime minister of the ROK and head of the South side delegation to the South-North high-level talks.

The new draft agreement at hand is the greatest expression of generosity for your side's claims. This new draft agreement reflects our sincere position to bring into this world a historic agreement in any way possible and to comply with the expectations of the people at home and abroad.

In fact we intended to continue making arguments with your side at the current talks by including more articles which contain our basic demands even if the adoption of an agreement is delayed. However, withholding everything our side has put forward a new proposal for making concessions this time in consideration of your side's opinion. I express the expectation that understanding this your side will affirmatively respond to our new draft agreement.

Delegates of the South side: We have repeatedly demanded since the first round of talks that your side suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise that has been staged with U.S. forces and release those figures who visited the North such as Rev. Mun Ik- hwan, student Yim Su-kyong, Yu Won-ho, and Father Mun Kyu-hyon. These are the urgent matters that both sides should solve for the removal of political and military confrontation and for the realization of multilateral cooperation and exchange between the North and the South, which are also an agenda item of the current talks.

To our regret, however, these matters have not been settled yet, and your side's attitude of refusing them has failed to convince us. As to the Team Spirit joint military exercise, your side has tried to justify it, saying that it is a defensive and annual exercise. However, the fact that it is a large-scale war exercise under the simulated condition of nuclear war cannot be concealed, and even if it is an annual exercise its dangerous nature cannot be reduced.

Attempting to threaten us with the Team Spirit joint military exercise, while talking about peace and detente at the dialogue table with us, is not a sincere attitude for talks. Moreover, it is intolerable from the national viewpoint to stage a war exercise against fellow countrymen by mobilizing foreign armed forces. That your side aggravated the situation every year through this military exercise and, thus, drove our talks to a state of suspension created obstacles on the road of the country's peace and reunification.

It is anticipated that the Team Spirit joint military exercise will begin in South Korea in the near future. In this connection, at the fourth round of talks we insisted that if this joint military exercise cannot be completely renounced, it may be left to the Joint Military Committee which will be formed later and that it should be discontinued at least for the next one year.

We think that your side cannot refuse even these rudimentary demands if it is interested in alleviating tension and, thus, treasures our talks. Your side has opposed the matter of releasing those arrested and imprisoned on charges of visiting the North on the pretext of having violated existing laws. But putting them in jail is clearly political suppression. In particular, we regret very much that your side's authorities put such an old patriotic figure as Rev. Mun Ik-hwan in jail again after releasing him for a while.

Having shown so much nervousness and oversensitivity to an aged person shows a political and moral weakness to the people of the world. Your side's acts against those figures who visited the North is precisely an expression of its attitude toward us. Your side should not punish those who visited the North as criminals and should release them if you do not regard us with hostility.

We once again strongly demand that your side reevaluate the activities of those who visited the North from the viewpoint of great national unity and release them before the end of this year.

In conclusion I express my firm conviction that, on the strength of the sincere efforts of both sides, the current fifth round of talks will, without fail, bear good fruit as called for by the people at home and abroad and, thus, will open a bright prospect before us in the future. Thank you.

Second Day of Fifth North-South Talks Reported

SK1212153291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul December 12 (KCNA correspondent)—The second-day session of the fifth North-South high-level talks was held in Sheraton Hotel from 1000 this morning.

Tending the talks on our side were the members of the delegation headed by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and on the South side were the members of the delegation with Chong Won-sik as its chief delegate.

The session went into recess ten minutes after its opening by agreememt between the sides.

A contact between delegates of the sides took place in camera for the adjustment of the content and the arrangement of the text of "agreement on North-South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange", a joint document of agreement between the North and the South.

At the contact the delegates of the sides completed the adjustment of the content and arrangement of the text of the agreement.

The talks will be resumed Friday [13 December]

U.S. 'Scripted' South's Stance in Talks

SK1212101991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0956 GMT 12 Dec 91

["How Can U.S. Nuclear Weapons Be 'War Deterrent'?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Seoul December 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The "prime minister" of South Korea made such venomous outpourings as slandering the North even in the hall of the fifth North-South high-level talks, persistently evading to admit the presence of more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Timing to coincide with this, an official who styles himself as a member of the South Korean Red Cross, showed up outside the conference hall and let loose such sophism as it is true that there exist in South Korea U.S. nuclear weapons which are, however, nothing but a "war deterrent."

Ironically enough, he, parroting what their "prime minister" said, also claimed that the North should accept the "nuclear inspection".

By so doing, the South Korean authorities self-exposed that they implored the United States to deploy in South Korea the nuclear weapons which can exterminate our fellow countrymen. It is a criminal act intended to threaten us with U.S. nuclear weapons under the pretext of "nuclear inspection".

And we are aware that the drama staged inside and outside the conference hall was scripted and directed by the United States.

The relations of political and military confrontation which have long existed between the North and the South have today reached their climax and the Korean peninsula finds itself in a dangerous situation where a war may break out even due to an accident.

Worse still, a war may easily go over to a nuclear war which can expand worldwide.

The South Korean authorities must know well what a holocaust will be entailed by the U.S. nuclear explosion. It is a common sense that not only the Korean nation but also the Americans will not be safe from the explosion.

The South Korean authorities must look straight at the reality and stop dancing to the tune of others.

If they are interested even a little in the inter-Korean high- level talks, they must not be fascinated by the U.S. nuclear weapons but must show an honest and sincere stand and stance with which to promote the peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

We are watching the South Korean authorities with a high vigilance.

'No Excuse' for U.S. To Keep Military in South

SK1212103791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 12 Dec 91

["No Excuse for United States To Use South Korea as Military Base"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The United States has no excuse to keep South Korea as its military base any longer today when the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States have gone over from confrontation to detente and they do not regard each other as their "enemy", declared NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It says:

The anti-communist slogan put up by the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters not working any more, they have no pretext to use South Korea as their military base.

The United States contended that it was maintaining South Korea as its military base to "deter southward thrust" of the Soviet Union when the two superpowers were confronted with each other. This pretext, however, is gone now.

And the fiction of "threat from the North" which was chanted by the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters so often do not go down with anyone now.

It is a long time ago that the world people stopped believing this fiction.

Not only once have we declared that we would not invade the South.

The U.S. reactionaries claim that the U.S. troops have occupied South Korea at the "request" of the South Korean people. This claim has also come to grief.

Today the South Korean people are strongly demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. troops which are the main obstacle to independence, democracy and reunification. The anti-U.S. storm is now raging in South Korea.

Left without justification to occupy South Korea and use it as a military base, the U.S. imperialists are trying to seek their criminal aim under the new ridiculous pretext of "coping with the North's development of nuclear weapons". But the United States cannot justify its moves with it.

We have no nuclear weapons. We have consistently pursued an anti-war, anti-nuclear policy.

Preposterous is the propaganda of the United States distorting its policy of ours and alleging that we are making preparations to produce nuclear weapons.

It is entirely unjust for the United States to have brought nuclear weapons into South Korea and turned it into a nuclear base, standing confronted wih us who do not have a single nuclear weapon. It also goes against the worldwide current toward disarmament, detente and peace that the United States keeps hold on South Korea as its military base, having deployed many nuclear weapons there.

As all facts show, there is no justification for the United States to continue to use South Korea as its military base.

The United States must not act against the demand and aspiration of the world peaceloving people but withdraw all its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

KCNA Reviews 11 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1112141991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—Dailies here today devote their first and second pages to a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song guided on the spot the work in different fields of the national economy in South Hamgyong Province, and pictures of him going round the Hungnam fertilizer complex where the project of introducing large-size and modern equipment was successfully completed, and a photo he posed for with the builders who performed feats in the project.

According to NODONG SINMUN, President Kim Il-song's works have been studied and disseminated abroad.

Given in the press are reports that our side's delegation headed by Premier Yon Hyong-muk arrived in Seoul through Panmunjom to participate in the fifth round of the inter-Korean high-level talks and a dinner was given for the delegation by the "prime minister" of the South side.

Pom O-kyun, a former trade representative of the South Korean Yurim Company Ltd. before defecting to the northern half of the country, was interviewed by home and foreign reporters, according to dailies.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Senegalese organization for friendship with the fraternal Korean people published a special issue of its bulletin and the bulletin "On the Tenth Founding Anniversary of the Chollima Agricultural Scientific Institute" was brought out in Tanzania.

The proposal to found a democratic confederal republic of Koryo has been fully supported in various countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary pointing out that the suicide of a female worker of a shoe-making company in Pusan was a tragedy caused by the anti-popular labour policy.

Leading officials of organizations under Chongnyon and the South Korean paper HANGYORE SINMUN rejected the aggressive and treacherous "Wartime Support Agreement" concluded between the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities, the paper says.

Under the headline "Unique Korean-Style Socialism Is Being Defended Steadfastly" it carries articles of foreign publications introducing the DPRK. It also reports that a friendship dance performance for the normalization of the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations was given in Tokyo.

According to the daily, Comrade Fidel Castro referred to the importance of the technical education, the general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of Vietnam called for an intensified party's leadership over the state, the eighth congress of the South African Communist Party was held, the president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia rejected the intervention of the U.S. Congress in elections in his country and the Zambian president declared his country would strengthen cooperation with other African nations.

It reviews the Soviet situation and reports that the Finnish paper HELSINGIN SANOMAT disclosed double-dealing of the United States and Western countries over the problem of nuclear weapons and the Namibian paper NEW ERA wrote that over the past 45 years the United Nations has been used as a tool for carrying out the U.S. foreign policy.

South Korea

Fifth Round of Prime Ministerial Talks Continues

Agreement on Bilateral Pact

SK1212094291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea on Thursday produced an agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, cooperation and exchange, the first bilateral pact since Korea's division 46 years ago.

The agreement was made at the fifth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks that opened here Tuesday [10 December].

South and North Korea reached a full agreement on the accord, Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the South Korean side, announced Thursday evening after working-level negotiations.

"The contents of the agreement cannot be revealed at this point since the draft need to be reported and approved by the prime ministers of the two sides," Yi said.

Nuclear issues were not discussed at Thursday's negotiations, he said, indicating that nuclear discussions will proceed at a separate level.

"Considering the schedule, the two prime ministers are unable to open a conference within Thursday," he said.

They will hold a full meeting Friday morning and sign the agreement, Yi told reporters.

The inter-Korean agreement is the first between the divided Korea and the first tangible product since they engaged in prime ministers' talks from September last year.

The fifth round of talks opened in Seoul Tuesday. South and North Korean delegates held first full meeting Wednesday [11 December] but postponed the second session Thursday to make way for working-level negotiators to work out the details of the agreement.

The South-North Korean agreement includes replacement of the armistice of 1953 with a peace regime.

It covers inter-Korean reconciliation, non-aggression, exchanges and cooperation, amendments and effectuation.

The agreement says the two sides shall respect each other's system, not interfere in internal affairs, not slander and not attempt to sabotage each other while establishing direct phone lines between military authorities and media exchanges.

It calls for opening three subcommittees in political, military and exchange-cooperation sections within one month after the agreement takes effect.

Focus on Reconciliation, Nonaggression

SK1212015891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Dec 91 p 2

[The following is the Draft Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between the South and the North put forward by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik on 11 December in Seoul]

[Text] Whereas in keeping with the yearning of the entire people for the peaceful unification of the divided land, the South and the North reaffirm the unification principles enunciated in the July 4 (1972) South-North Joint Communique:

Whereas both parties are determined to resolve political and military confrontation and achieve national reconciliation:

Whereas both are resolved to prevent aggression by armed force and armed clashes and to ease tension and ensure peace:

Whereas both desire to promote multifaceted exchanges and cooperation to advance common national interests and prosperity:

Whereas both recognize that their relations constitute a special provisional relationship geared to unification: and

Whereas both pledge to exert joint efforts to achieve peaceful unification.

Therefore, the parties hereto agree as follows:

South-North reconciliation

Article 1: The South and the North shall respect each other's political and social systems.

Article 2: Both parties shall not interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Article 3: Both parties shall not slander and vilify each other.

Article 4: Both parties shall not attempt in any manner to sabotage and subvert the other.

Article 5: Both parties shall endeavor to transform the present armistice regime into a firm state of peace between the South and the North and shall abide by the present Military Armistice Agreement (of July 27, 1953) until such time as a state of peace has taken hold.

Article 6: Both parties shall cease confrontation on the international stage and shall cooperate and endeavor together to promote national interests and esteem.

Article 7: To ensure close consultation between the South and the North, resident liaison offices shall be established at Panmunjom within two months of the effective date of this agreement. Both parties shall take active steps to establish similar offices in Seoul and Pyongyang in the future.

Article 8: A South-North political subcommittee shall be established within the framework of the inter-Korean high-level talks within one month of the effective date of this agreement with a view to discussing concrete measures to ensure the implementation and observance of the accords on South-North reconciliation.

South-North nonaggression

Article 9: Both parties shall not use armed force against each other and shall not make armed aggression against each other.

Article 10: Differences of opinion and disputes arising between the two parties shall be peacefully resolved through dialogue and negotiations pursuant to the terms of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 11: The South-North Demarcation Line for nonaggression shall be identical with the Military Demarcation Line specified in the Military Armistice Agreement of July 27, 1953. The nonaggression sea zones shall be identical with the waters that have been under the jurisdiction of each party respectively since the said Military Armistice Agreement entered into force.

Article 12: To firmly ensure nonaggression and help carry out arms reductions, both parties shall take military confidence- building measures, including the mutual advance notification of major military exercises and major movements of military units, exchanges of observation teams at military exercises and the peaceful utilization of the Demilitarized Zone.

Article 13: To mutually discourage armed aggression, both parties shall, first of all, eliminate weapons of mass destruction and surprise attack capabilities, shall correct military imbalances between the South and the North and shall progressively reduce armaments.

Article 14: To ensure military confidence building and arms reductions, both parties shall exchange military information, shall effect on-the-spot verifications and shall exchange resident monitoring teams.

Article 15: A telephone hotline shall be installed between the military authorities of both sides to prevent accidental armed clashes and other military emergencies and avoid their escalation.

Article 16: To enforce the provisions of Articles 12 through 15, both parties shall establish a South-North military committee within six months of the effective date of this agreement.

Article 17: A South-North military subcommittee shall be established within the framework of the inter-Korean high-level talks within one month of the effective date of this agreement in order to discuss concrete measures to ensure the implementation and observance of accords on South-North nonaggression and also various additional military matters involved in resolving military confrontation.

South-North exchanges and cooperation

Article 18: Both parties shall mutually open access to and exchange radio and television broadcasts and newspapers and publications in general, and shall carry out exchanges and cooperation in various other fields, including education, culture, the arts, religion, health, the environment, sports, science and technology.

Article 19: Both parties shall promptly permit free correspondence, reunions and visits between family members and other relatives dispersed in the South and the North, shall promote the reconstitution of divided families on their own and shall take measures to resolve other humanitarian issues.

Article 20: Both parties shall guarantee residents of their respective areas free inter-Korean travel and contacts.

Article 21: South-North land, sea and air transport routes shall be created and the points of passage designated. In the initial phase, the Seoul-Shinuiju railroad and the Munsan-Kaesong highway shall be reconnected.

Article 22: Both parties shall establish and link facilities needed for South-North postal and telecommunications services and shall guarantee the confidentiality of inter-Korean mail and telecommunications.

Article 23: To promote a balanced development of the national economy and the welfare of the entire people, both parties shall carry out trade in goods as a kind of domestic commerce, the joint development of resources, joint investment in industrial projects, joint business enterprises abroad and other forms of economic exchanges and cooperation.

Article 24: To implement the provisions of Article 20 through 23, a South-North trade committee, a South-North communications committee and a South-North economic exchanges and cooperation committee shall be created within six months of the effective date of this agreement.

Article 25: A South-North exchanges and cooperation subcommittee shall be established within the framework of the inter-Korean high- level talks within one month of the effective date of this agreement with a view to discussing concrete measures to ensure the implementation and observance of the accords on South-North exchanges and cooperation.

Amendments and effectuation

Article 26: This agreement shall not affect bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements that each party has signed and that are now in force.

Article 27: This agreement may be amended by concurrence of both parties.

Article 28: This agreement shall enter into force as of the day both parties exchange instruments of ratification following its signing and the subsequent completion of their respective procedures for bringing it into effect.

Discuss 'Flexible' Proposals

SK1212035091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0316 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea took major strides toward an accord on reconciliation, non-aggression, and exchange and cooperation Thursday morning, raising hope that an agreement of unprecedented significance will come out of the ongoing prime ministerial talks.

The closed session of the fifth round of high-level talks, scheduled for two hours Thursday morning, was immediately adjourned to continue working-level negotiations that started Wednesday afternoon.

After Wednesday's working-level negotiations, southern spokesman Yi Tong-pok said the two sides had narrowed their differences in opinion "to a remarkable degree" but stumbling blocks remained on non-aggression and nuclear issues.

The working-level talks are attended by, from the South, Vice National Unification Minister Song Han-ho, Yim Tong-on, dean of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and national security, and spokesman Yi.

On the northern side are Paek Nam-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, roving Ambassador Choe U-chin, and Kim Yong-chol, vice minister of the people's Armed Forces.

Spokesmen for both delegations said the plenary session could resume as soon as the two sides ironed out minor differences on some major points of the agreement.

A senior South Korean official said Thursday the two sides could reach an agreement "that would mean a turning point in South-North Korean relations."

"North Korea has exhibited considerable flexibility. If an accord is forthcoming between the two sides, the talks may be extended by one day," the official said, asking he not be identified by name or title.

Seoul has revised its stance to settle the draft "Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, and Exchange and Cooperation" and the draft "Joint Declaration on Non-Nuclear Korean Peninsula" to answer Pyongyang's call that the first issue be resolved before the second.

South Korea earlier proposed opening resident liaison offices in Seoul, Pyongyang and at the truce village of Panmunjom, but is moving to accept the North's offer that an office be opened only at Panmunjom, southern conference sources said.

The sources said South Korea was trying to be more flexible over the non-aggression demarcation line and measures to secure non-aggression.

The South may drop Article 26 of its draft agreement on reconciliation and other subjects, which says, "this agreement shall not affect bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements that each party has signed and that are now in force."

North Korea said it was willing to discuss the South's draft declaration on non-nuclear Korean peninsula and that it could positively consider shifting the subjects of the peace agreement, which will replace the present armistice agreement, from North Korea and the United States to the two Koreas, the sources said.

The North also offered a compromise that it might accept exchange and cooperation in the field of newspapers and broadcasting, although it opposed an offer to mutually open access to broadcasts, newspapers and publications in general.

President No Tae-u was closely watching the progress of the talks, his spokesman Yi Su-chung said Thursday. No was briefed late Wednesday night by presidential secretary-general Chong Hae-chang and Kim Chong-hui, his aide for diplomacy and security and a member of the southern delegation.

The North Korean delegates to the inter-Korean prime ministerial talks in Seoul are likely to meet with President No Tae-u on Friday amid growing signs that agreement on reconciliation is imminent, a senior South Korean government official said Thursday.

"In the event of an agreement at the high-level talks, we will postpone the meeting on strengthening manufacturing industry competitiveness that President No was scheduled to preside over on Friday," the official said, hinting at the visit to Chongwadae, the president's official office.

The two sides have reached a consensus on respect for each other's system, non-interference in internal affairs, stoppage of slander and attempts to sabotage and subvert the other side, end to confrontation in the international community and promotion of mutual cooperation, and establishment of a political subcommittee in the framework of the high-level talks, South Korean sources said.

They are also near agreement on exchange and cooperation in various fields, reunion of separated families, postal and telecommunications exchange, economic exchange and cooperation, and establishment of an exchange and cooperation subcommittee, the sources said.

On the thorny issue of non-aggression, the two sides shared views on the non-use of armed force against each other, peaceful resolution of disputes, opening a hotline between the military authorities of both sides, and establishment of a military subcommittee within the framework of the high-level talks.

The prime ministers of South and North Korea exchanged what was probably the most flexible package of proposals ever made on reconciliation, non-aggression, and exchange and cooperation, and on denuclearization of Korean peninsula in the first session of the high-level talks Wednesday.

The two sides opened the second-day plenary session Thursday morning, but adjourned it immediately to continue working-level negotiations on detailed matters.

Press Conference Details Talks

SK1212080191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0740 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—In an urgently called press conference, spokesmen for the South and North Korean delegations to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks showed a well-coordinated performance Thursday.

Spokesmen An Pyong-su of North Korea and Yi Tong-pok took turns to read an announcement that the closed session of the talks scheduled for two hours Thursday morning was immediately adjourned to continue working-level negotiations.

North Korea's An took the podium first and read the announcement. He was followed by the South's Yi who explained to reporters that the main session would be resumed as soon as the working-level negotiators finished working on details and wording of the agreements.

Yi added that programme following the regular session will be carried out as scheduled.

The southern spokesman said, "Let's wait," when he was asked by a reporter if he could assume that the early adjournment of the main session meant that the two sides in fact reached basic agreements.

"A healthy baby may be on its way to be born," he said.

—the working-level negotiators of South and North Korea worked throughout the night at the residence of Song Han-ho, vice minister of South Korea's Unification Board, it was learned Thursday morning.

At the request of the northern delegation, they met twice—at 3 a.m., and again at 6 a.m.—and discussed details and draft of their agreements, according to a southern official.

The North Korean delegates, meanwhile, kept calling Pyongyang by telephone more frequently than they did in the two previous meetings in Seoul.

In one of the calls, Pyongyang was overheard telling its delegates in Seoul to "come back with the check" which was taken to mean that they should sign agreements.

—some 40 North Korean journalists including reporters from the Workers Party organ, NODONG SINMUN, took a subway ride from Kangbyon station to Chamsil station from 10:50 a.m.

They talked to ordinary strap-hangers asking such politically loaded questions as "what do you think will be the outcome of the prime ministers' talks?" And "when do you think our country will be reunited?"

One of the North Korean journalists, Kim Chong-se of the North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) asked a man identified as Kim Tong-won, 39, whether he thought Americans were needed for the unification of the country.

Kim replied, "North Korea may take the presence of U.S. troops in the South as an obstacle (but) it isn't necessarily so for us."

The North Korean journalists then visited the Namsan Tower where they also tossed the same kind of political questions at souvenir vendors. But most merchants told them: "We cannot answer such difficult questions."

Team Spirit Cancellation Considered

SK1212015691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0121 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea may cancel its annual "team spirit" joint military exercise with the United States next year if North Korea accepts its latest proposal on a non-nuclear Korean peninsula, government officials said Thursday.

The "joint declaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula" put forward by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik on the first day of the fifth round of high-level talks here Wednesday would be the focus of the closed discussions Thursday, they said.

In a declaration seconding President No Tae-u's Nov. 8 "Declaration on Non-Nuclear Korea Peace Initiatives," Chong proposed the simultaneous inspection of North Korea's Sunchon airfield and facilities in Yongbyon by the South, and of Kunsan Airbase or other military and civilian facilities in South Korea by the North.

He said such pilot inspections could be conducted by Jan. 31.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk responded by reading the draft "Declaration on the Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula" put to the fourth round of talks in October in Pyongyang and urging the South not to accept any offer of a nuclear umbrella.

Contending that the nuclear issue was caused by the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, Yon criticized the much-talked-about forced inspection of North Korea's nuclear capability as "naked interference in the affairs of an independent and sovereign state and intolerable act of insult to us."

South Korean officials said North Korea seemed reluctant to accommodate the call for non-possession of nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities contained in Chong's proposal.

The officials said Pyongyang had been notified that Seoul might cancel "team spirit" for all its plans to make it the largest-ever maneuver.

South Korea and the United States decided in their 23rd Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] in November to expand the military drill next spring to an unprecedented scale, adding crack troops, patriot missile batteries and F-117 stealth fighters.

The expanded exercises were intended to deter North Korea from developing nuclear arms, diplomatic sources in Washington said earlier this month, adding the F-117's, patriots, tomahawk missiles and airborne warning and control system could remain in Korea after the drill.

The two allies also decided in the SCM to postpone the 1993-95 second-phase withdrawal of U.S troops stationed in South Korea. Under a 1953 mutual defense treaty, 39,000 American troops are based in South Korea.

Seoul wants to settle both drafts—one on a non-nuclear Korea and another on reconciliation, non-aggression, exchange and cooperation—at one time, but Pyongyang opts for settlement of the draft agreement on reconciliation and other subjects before the one relating to nuclear issues, the officials said.

The two sides will hold working-level talks Thursday afternoon to iron out differences uncovered in the closed morning session of the high-level talks that began 10 a.m. for a duration of two hours at the Sheraton-Walkerhill Hotel, they said.

The two sides held working-level talks Wednesday afternoon and discussed the key-note speeches their prime ministers presented in the morning. They narrowed differences to a great extent, but failed to reach an accord concerning non-aggression and nuclear issues.

Upon North Korea's argument that replacement of the present military armistice agreement by a peace treaty could not be decided by the two sides, the South moved to drop from the draft agreement on reconciliation the clause that both sides abide by the armistice agreement until a firm state of peace takes its place, the officials said.

South Korea asked North Korea to agree that the inter-Korean agreement would not affect bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements the two sides had already signed, but the North declined to do so.

The North also refused to accept the South's call that the two sides take military confidence-building measures to firmly ensure non-aggression and help carry out arms reductions.

Spokesman Yi Tong-pok for the South Korean delegation said after the working-level talks Wednesday that the two sides were overcoming differences "to a remarkable degree" but were still faltering over some matters concerning non-aggression.

No Tae-U To Request Summit

SK1212124891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1236 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u is expected to send a message to North Korean President Kim Il-song to express his hope for an early inter-Korean summit, a senior government official said Thursday. No is to meet North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk at his official residence Friday, [punctuation as received]

"South-North relations could make a speedy progress now that the two sides have agreed on a basic accord on reconciliation," said the official.

"The (Seoul) government is to actively push ahead with talks between No and Kim in the belief that a summit is essential for peace on the Korean peninsula and national unification."

In view of the "progressive change" in North Korean attitude shown in the fifth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks this week, an inter-Korean summit is expected to be realized in the not distant future, he said.

"It could come as early as in late January or in February," he said.

Nuclear Issues Committee Planned

SK1212132791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1301 GMT 12 Dec 91

["Roundup": "South, North Korea To Set Up Committee on Nuclear Issue"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea are planning to form a negotiation group to deal specifically with nuclear issues, officials here said Thursday.

The two Koreas produced an agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, cooperation and exchange at the fifth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks that opened here Tuesday [10 December].

Working-level negotiation teams from the two sides met from Wednesday [11 December] afternoon to work out the details to the agreement.

South Korean spokesman Yi Tong-pok said there will be an announcement on the nuclear issue "in one form or another."

He did not disclose details to the inter-Korean agreement, saying it needs approval from the prime ministers and that North Korea must report to Pyongyang before it is released to the press.

Sources said it calls for connecting land, sea and air transportation routes and establishment of an economic cooperation committee within six months.

The two sides agreed to use the Military Demarcation Line drawn under the Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953 as the demarcation line for non-aggression. For sea zones, the demarcation line is to be identical with the waters that have been under their respective jurisdictions, the sources said.

Under the agreement, South and North Korea will be named the concerned parties of a peace regime that will replace the Armistice Agreement as Seoul has demanded. North Korea, saying South Korea was not a signatory to the Armistice Agreement, used to insist that replacement of the armistice has to be settled between it and the United States.

South Korea responded to one of North Korea's demands by dropping an article that this inter-Korean agreement shall not affect bilateral or multilateral treaties and agreements that each party has signed.

South Korea also revised some articles in its draft on non-aggression, including exchange of observation teams at military exercises, as requested by the North.

But it is keeping the parts on opening direct phone lines between military authorities and military exchanges, sources said.

On nuclear issues, Seoul and Pyongyang will sort out common grounds from North Korea-proposed "declaration on the denuclearization of Korean peninsula" and South Korea's "joint declaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula" and form a negotiation group before next February to settle details, officials said.

The inter-Korean agreement calls for forming three subcommittees in political, military, and cooperation and exchange sectors within one month after the agreement goes into effect.

"Nuclear issues can be negotiated at the military subcommittee but South and North Korea tentatively agreed to form a separate group," one official said.

The Korean agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression, cooperation and exchange is the first bilateral pact since the country's division in 1945.

Seoul and Pyongyang started prime ministers' talks from September last year but it is the first official agreement from five rounds of meetings.

Prime Ministers Chong Won-sik from the South and Yon Hyong-muk from the North will sign the agreement when they meet Friday [13 December] morning.

"I am deeply moved and relieved," South Korean spokesman Yi said, "there will be dramatic changes in future inter-Korean relations."

"It is truly enlightening that we have narrowed our differences and gave to the people a joint agreement," North Korean Prime Minister Yon said at a dinner after the agreement was announced.

North Prime Minister Visits Seoul Sites

SK1212030791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, taking time out from the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, visited Lotte World Department Store Wednesday afternoon.

Accompanied by South Korean delegate Kim Chong-hui, Yon arrived at Lotte's Chamsil store at 3:50 p.m., to a rousing welcome from more than 100 shoppers who applauded him as he stepped into the store.

After acknowledging the welcome with a raised hand, Yon, led by Lotte's President Kim Ung-se, toured "the folk village" on the third floor and "the world adventure" on the first underground floor.

Impressed apparently by the large recreational facilities, Yon fired questions: "Since when did you have this kind of facilities in Seoul?" And "How long did it take to build them?"

Visiting the "Folk Village," Yon signed his name and the date on the guest book and wrote: "History, the (Korean) people's pride will last forever!"

Yon then went through the villages recreated from Korea's prehistoric time to the Japanese colonial period. "This is great for the education of young people as visitors can see the way our ancestors lived from prehistoric days."

Yon also expressed surprise when he saw bottles of ginseng liquor from the North Korean city of Kaesong and "Paekro" spirit from Kanggae on display counters. "How could North Korean liquors be on sale here?" He asked. "Are they selling well?"

—the delegates to the inter-korean prime ministers' talks, winding up the first day's scheduled activities, held separate strategy sessions at Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel from 8 p.m. Wednesday.

On the South Korean side, the session led by Prime Minister Chong won-sik analyzed North Korea's keynote speech delivered earlier in the day by Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk and discussed the ways to respond to it.

Noting that North Korea, unlike in previous meetings, has shown some flexibility, the South Korean delegates discussed the points in which the two sides had differences including the problem of how to change over from the state of truce to that of peace.

The South Korean strategy session lasted until 1 a.m., Thursday and some delegates worked until 7 in the morning drafting the prime minister's speech at Thursday's closed conference.

Meanwhile, the North Korean side held its session at the prime minister's suite. At one point, the North Koreans asked to talk to officials in Pyongyang by telephone, according to South Korean officials.

—following a visit to Lotte Department Store, North Korean prime minister attended a musical show on the life of the nation's most famous musical composer, Hong Nam-pa, at the National Theater Wednesday evening.

Prime ministers Yon Hyong-muk and Chong won-sik and some delegates from both sides watched the show with 1,300 other ordinary spectators.

The North Korean visitors watched the show with great interest and applauded often. They also sang together with everybody when the orchestra played "Spring in Hometown," after the show.

—while the leaders and other members of the delegations to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks visited a department store and attended a musical show, some delegates remained in the hotel and held "a working-level meeting."

In the closed-door meeting, they reportedly tried to narrow their differences on the nuclear questions. The southern side proposed that the conference adopt a joint declaration of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and accept simultaneous inspections of nuclear facilities by the end of January. North Korea, on the other hand, wants to discuss the problem after issuing a denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Rival Parties Appear Headed for Showdown

SK1212001991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Dec 91 p 2

[By staff reporter Choe Sang-hun]

[Text] The rival parties appeared to be heading for a showdown over the disputed bills. The final stages of negotiations had broken down as rival negotiators simply agreed to differ. The ruling Domestic Liberal Party [DLP] submitted its two draft bills on political funds and parliamentary elections to the National Assembly Tuesday. Its officials said yesterday the party will push all controversial bills through the current session of the legislature, if no compromise agreements are made.

Opposition lawmakers vowed to block the passage of the bills and proposed a special parliamentary session in January to debate the controversial bills. The current regular session ends Dec. 18.

DLP floor leader Yi Cha-hon affirmed that his party plans to get the bills through the present session.

Yi said his party will try to get the opposition Democratic Party [DP] back to the negotiating table. He suggested that the floor leaders and secretaries-general meet to discuss the issue.

Earlier the opposition rejected a proposed meeting of key officials of the rival parties, in protest of the DLP's decision to submit the two bills to the National Assembly Home Affairs Committee.

Key DP officials concluded yesterday that the DLP's draft bills are lopsidedly in favor of the ruling party. Once the bills are enacted, they argued, opposition candidates will have difficulties in the parliamentary elections expected in next March.

They demanded that deliberation of non-urgent bills be deferred to a special session in January. If this demand is met, the opposition will accept committee debate on the bills regarding parliamentary elections and political funds.

Otherwise they will put up an "all-out struggle" to block the debate.

Ruling party officials denounced the opposition's demand as sophisticated stalling tactics to embarrass the ruling party ahead of the parliamentary elections. Said a party official: "the opposition appears to have concluded that it has won enough in the negotiations. They are now indirectly egging the ruling party on to ram through those bills."

Many ruling party officials said it is virtually impossible to pass those bills on an interparty agreement even if their deliberation is deferred to a special session in January. "It's just another stalling tactic of the opposition. We have no choice but to force those bills through, and if we have to do it after all, we want to get it done before the present session ends," one official said.

The ruling party will need time to take steps before the general election to heal its image after forced passage of the bills, he said.

The controversial bills include those regarding the stage purchase price and amount of rice, cable TV broadcasting, development of the southern resort island of Cheju, promotion of the "Righteous Life" campaign and basic laws on youth.

In the case of the bill on rice, the rival parties, under pressure from farmers, agreed to pass it in the present session. But the ruling party stuck to the government's plan to buy 8.5 million sok (43.52 million U.S. bushels) at a 7-percent increased price, while the opposition demanded a purchase of more than 10 million sok and a double-digit price increase.

Executive Chairman Threatens Break With DLP

SK0912023991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], told the president's office recently he would break with the party unless he is named the party's presidential candidate before the general elections next year.

Kim made his position clear in a written statement prepared by his followers and sent to President No Tae-u's office on Nov. 28, informed sources said. No is also the president of the DLP.

In the statement, Kim urged No to clarify his plans for the selection process of the party's presidential candidate. Unless the DLP names its presidential nominee before the general elections, the party would fail to win a majority at the National Assembly, Kim was said to have warned.

President No has said he was in favor of selecting the DLP's presidential candidate through a free balloting at a party convention after the general elections for the 14th national assembly. The exact date for the elections has not been fixed but it is expected to be around April or May.

The DLP was formed in February last year through a merger of the then ruling Democratic Justice Party led by No, Kim's Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party headed by Kim Chong-pil.

In his statement sent to Chongwadae, Kim Yong-sam said his faction, consisting mainly of former Reunification Democratic Party, should get half the number of total delegates to the DLP's national convention if its presidential candidate is to be selected at a party meeting.

If this condition is not satisfied, Kim said the proposed selection process through a free balloting could only be regarded as a move to eliminate him from running for the president.

It is not known if Kim's letter was handed to the president. Nevertheless, Kim is expected to meet No alone in mid-January to explain his position to the president, the sources said.

Involvement in Controversy Denied

SK1012015491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Dec 91 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Clean Hand"]

[Text] Aides to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam yesterday denied Kim's involvement in the making of the controversial document asking for their boss's nomination as the presidential candidate, threatening to leave the party unless the demands are met.

Rep. Sin Kyong-sik, Kim's chief secretary, said it is not true that Kim sent such document to Chongwadae (presidential office). Kim has never been aware of the fact.

If such document were made, Kim was quoted as having said it might have been the views of his followers.

Sin said the executive chairman Kim has never engaged in such matters, refraining from revealing his own opinion.

Labor Organization Membership Basis for Diplomacy

SK1112013591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Dec 91 p 8

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] Korea will now be able to initiate labor diplomacy with foreign countries with its joining the International Labor Organization (ILO), one of 15 affiliates of the United Nations.

The country has realized its long-cherished dream to become a member of the U.N. agency Monday when the Korean government submitted a letter accepting the charter to the ILO headquarters in Geneva.

"We will be able to discuss labor affairs with 150 other members on an equal footing. So far, we have been an observer at the U.N. body as a non-member," said Song Maeng-yong, director in charge of ILO affairs at the Labor Ministry.

Any country automatically joins the body if it is a regular member of the U.N. but Korea had no affiliations with the ILO as it had not been a U.N. member till last September.

Song said non-U.N. members are required to win approval from two thirds of the members if they want to join the body.

But the government has shelved the application till Korea became the U.N. member as it was judged that positive votes from Communist and non-aligned countries would not be received, he explained.

But foreign countries have been suspicious that Korea intentionally delayed the application because of numerous unfavorable policies to laborers, he said, adding that the suspicion has been wiped out now.

He said the government will positively ratify as many as possible of the total 172 conventions of the ILO to meet the international standards in labor affairs.

But it is not imperative for any member to sign all the conventions unlike those in other U.N. affiliates and other international bodies, Song noted.

The United States has ratified only 11 conventions, Japan 39 and Canada 27. Only seven members have accepted more than half of the 172 ILO conventions.

The issues at stake are multiple labor unions in an establishment, intervention by a third party and unionization of government employees which are not stipulated by domestic laws against the ILO conventions.

He said the government will not ratify the ILO conventions which are not compatible with domestic laws, adding that the United States has many conventions unratified due to contradiction with their own federal or state laws.

His remarks mean that domestic labor circles will launch an attack on the government concerning the three hot issues, referring to the ILO conventions.

During the past several years, the dual labor union system, intervention of a third party in one labor union's disputes and unionization by government officials have been hot issues between the labor side and the government.

The ILO is the plaza where representatives from the government, laborers and employers in each member country are equally participated in, unlike other bodies, he said.

As a result, the labor side should also make efforts to generate a concensus from the employers and the government to achieve their goal although the country has joined the world body, he noted.

A labor expert said, "It is too hasty to expect epoch-making improvement in domestic labor conditions at the ILO is composed of three parties—labor, management and the government."

"But the government should actively accept the demands of labor to rewrite labor laws contradictory to the ILO conventions on the occasion of the entry to the U.N. body," he pointed out.

In international aspect, the government will be able to easily participate in labor-related projects in the world labor circles.

Song said the U.N. Development Program has many ILO-related projects such as Korea-German vocational training now under way in Pusan.

The Korean government has also provided vocational training in Indonesia but it has no financial support from the U.N. body as it has not been a member of the ILO, he noted.

The government has intended to provide similar labor training courses to Sudanese but has not begun the program due to a lack of money, he said, adding that Korea can now demand funds from the ILO and other ILO-sponsoring bodies.

The government will pay $1.4 million to the body every year for ILO activities following the entry fee of $1.5 million this year.

Bank Stops Approval of Tied Loans to USSR

SK1212021791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (YONHAP)—Approval by the Export and Import Bank of Korea for tied loans to cover Korean exports of consumer goods to the Soviet Union has been halted as there are no applications from the Soviet Union, which is in turmoil.

The Soviet bank for foreign economic trade has not applied for a loan for a single import this month and the Korean bank has not approved one, Trade and Industry Ministry officials said Thursday.

As of Tuesday, the Soviet bank's loan applications stood at 516 million U.S. dollars in 119 cases, unchanged from the end of November, and approvals remained 432 million dollars in 92 cases.

The Soviet Union has agreed to import 800 million dollars of consumer goods and raw materials from Korea using tied loans and the two countries have completed negotiations on exports of 41 items worth 778 million dollars. Negotiations for items worth 22 million dollars are still under way.

Shipments to the Soviet Union also are sluggish this month at 19 million dollars and six items.

The Export-Import bank paid 59.6 million dollars this month to Korean exporters for exports to the Soviet Union, bringing total payment to 73 million dollars in 23 cases.

Korean exporters concluded contracts to export three items worth 80 million dollars this month.

Soviet Scientists Invited To Work for Industry

SK1112080191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0708 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to invite 300 to 500 Soviet scientists and technicians by the year 2000 to work for the development of the country's hi-tech industry, government sources said Wednesday.

The government, at the same time, will actively take part in Soviet efforts to turn its military industry into enterprises producing civilian goods, the sources said.

The government has also decided to sign a scientific and technological cooperation agreement again with the Russian Republic since some administrative functions of the Soviet Union had been transferred to the Russian Republic. South Korea originally signed the agreement with the Soviet Union in December.

These decisions were made by the Ministry of Science and Technology at a Soviet-South Korea consultative meeting convened recently to discuss the bilateral cooperation in view of the recent political developments in the Soviet Union.

The sources said the government hopes to recruit 200 to 400 scientists and technicians in aerospace, information, new material, new engineering, medical and environmental industries by the year 2000.

Initially in 1992, the government plans to let 80 Soviet scientists to work in 48 industrial projects agreed on for bilateral cooperation and 20 others to work at research organizations or universities with government funds totaling 170 million won, the sources said.

As for the Korean participation in Soviet efforts to expand civilian supplies, the government will form a Korea-Soviet advisory board for the transformation of the Soviet military industry and promote necessary technology transfers and joint ventures in the Soviet Union, the sources said.

Japan Opposes 'Comprehensive Tariffication'

SK1212031791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan on Thursday proposed working together with South Korea to oppose the Uruguay round's tariffication without exception, which would open their rice markets to imports.

Japanese ambassador to Korea Kenichi Yanagi called on Agriculture Minister Cho Kyong-sik to deliver his government's wish to put up a unified front with Korea and 12 other nations in opposing what Arthur Dunkel, chairman of the agricultural negotiating group, calls "comprehensive tariffication."

Korea made clear that it could not accept Dunkel's working paper last month, and Japan, negating recent speculation it may agree to partial opening, said last week it had not changed its mind about rejecting rice market opening.

Twelve other countries, including Canada, Israel, Mexico and some European nations, oppose comprehensive tariffication.

Cho reiterated his government's position that it would not accept tariffication or market access on rice and welcomed the Japanese proposal for close cooperation.

The agriculture minister stressed that Korea's agricultural market was still at a fledgling stage and Korea needed to be treated as a developing country in this particular sector.

Small, Medium Firms Increase PRC Investment

SK1112011191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] Korean investment in China is markedly increasing, led by small and medium business concerns.

According to the Small Business Promotion Corporation, domestic industrial investment in China amounted to $112 million in 130 projects as of the end of September this year.

The number of Chinese projects in which business concerns invested in the first nine months of this year stood at 81 against 38 last year, nine in 1989 and two in 1988.

Of the total investment projects in China, small and medium enterprises accounted for 112 or 86.2 percent.

They also took a 59.5 percent share of the aggregate investment amount in China.

The increasing investment by small and medium companies in China is mainly attributed to their efforts to use the communist country as a base for exports of their processed products.

Unlike in the past, small and medium companies are solely investing in China these days.

In the January-September period, their solo investment projects in China stood at 38, accounting for 38 percent of their total investment cases.

Until last year, more than 75 percent of their investment in China was made in the form of joint ventures with Chinese businesses.

North's Kim Il-song Said Shielded From Trouble

SK1212122491 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 15 Dec 91 pp 6, 7

[Article by reporter U Chong-chang: "Leadership, Including Kim Chong-il, Makes False Reports—Kim Il-song Is Not Well Informed of Reality in North Korea"]

[Text] North Korean President Kim Il-song is reportedly not at all aware that the North Koreans are starving due to severe food shortages and he is never informed of the situation. What is more surprising is that the North Korean leadership, including Kim Chong-il, makes false reports to President Kim. This is because of the North Korean leadership's consideration that the aged President Kim live the rest of his life in comfort.

This was divulged by Mr. P, a Korean resident in the United States. At Kim Chong-il's invitation, Mr. P visited North Korea for a few weeks. He not only toured Pyongyang, Wonsan, and Mt. Kumgang but also had frank conversations with high-ranking North Korean figures. Mr. P presented a travelogue recently at a public lecture at which he had been invited to speak. (Editor's notes: At Mr. P's request, this article is carried anonymously. He did not want us to disclose his identity, because he will continue visiting Pyongyang. Mr. P is a renowned figure whom everybody can easily recognize at the simple mention of his name, and 350 local figures listened to his lecture.)

According to Mr. P, the fact that President Kim Il-song has not been informed at all of North Korea's serious food dearth was revealed during his meeting with Chinese strong man Deng Xiaoping when he visited China in early October 1991. Deng's invitation to President Kim was reportedly designed to give the latter an opportunity to see the changed picture of the Chinese rural communities since China implemented the agriculture liberalization policy. Thus Deng inwardly wanted President Kim to follow suit. After President Kim returned from his inspection tour of Chinese farm villages, Deng tried to determine President Kim's view on solving North Korea's food problem in China's way. President Kim responded: "We don't have any food problems. We are only running out of oil and are somewhat only short of beans."

Of all powerful countries in the world, China is the only friendly nation toward North Korea. Furthermore, Chinese strong man Deng and President Kim are close enough to somewhat frankly discuss the North Korean situation. Notwithstanding such good circumstances, President Kim made the far-fetched remarks based on mistaken reports. Revealing the conversation between Deng Xiaoping and President Kim, Mr. P said that this proves President Kim's ignorance of North Korea's domestic situation.

Mr. P said that President Kim's lack of information on North Korea's actual economic difficulties is attributable to the consideration of the people close to him, including Kim Chong-il. They say: "We should have the leader live in comfort for the rest of his life." Thus, they never report to President Kim on anything complicated or anything that may bother him.

Mr. P said that, as far as he knows, Kim Chong-il is well aware of North Korea's domestic situation. He simply does not report to President Kim to avoid offending his feelings. Mr. P went on to add: Kim Chong-il alone is wrestling with all North Korea's troublesome domestic issues. Under his own initiative, Kim Chong-il has recently opened, though to a limited degree, North Korea to the outside world, invited renowned figures from abroad, and disclosed North Korea's actual situation to the guests.

Mr. P reveals that while he was visiting North Korea, he had an open-minded conversation face to face with a high-ranking person for several hours. The person was well aware of North Korea's serious domestic issues, including shortages of food, oil, and electricity. Mr. P also says that, when he asked the person an embarrassing, difficult question, the person did not give him a straight or metaphorical answer. He looked embarrassed and just said: "I think you know very well" and "you know that."

Mr. P learned from the high-ranking figures whom he met in Pyongyang that 40 percent of the factories in North Korea recently closed due to oil shortages and that construction of a 105-story hotel under way in Pyongyang has been suspended, with only the structure erected, for the last two years. He said that although his hotel is classified as a high class one, the fluorescent lamp was blinking and even so went out at 2200.

After North Korean high-ranking figures informed him of North Korea's serious domestic economic situation, they reportedly looked seriously concerned, saying "Please make efforts so that the South may not invade the North, taking the advantage of our difficult situation."

Mr. P revealed North Korea's miserable situation as he witnessed it first-hand:

"One day, I noticed heavy smoke coming out of a passenger car. I presumed that the car was on fire and cautioned my guide about it out of my worries. The guide simply replied, as if it were nothing important: 'Smoke was generated because the car uses the chuche-type fuel.' I eventually found out that such incidents occur very often, because the North Koreans have come to rely on corn cobs, after using charcoal for some time, due to the oil shortage.

"While riding in cars, I saw few people with heavy faces. In particular, further out in the countryside, the residents have malnutrition-caused dark complexions and are gaunt. They really looked wretched. I thought I would take pictures of North Korean people. But I gave up, because they looked too miserable. I thought taking pictures of them was cruel."

"Around 0930, while I was riding in a car and happened to pass a field path of a rural farm, I noticed that the farmers were just sitting on the ridge of a rice field indulging in smoking. It seemed to me that they did not feel like harvesting the rice. The guide told me that farmers never work, unless their work team leaders urge them to work by blowing whistles. The same was true with the students who were mobilized for rice harvesting. I even heard that North Korean women do not know how to cook rice. Such a phenomenon has happened because the community kitchen simply rations them boiled rice."

A participant at the public lecture given by Mr. P asked him: "What will happen to North Korea in the future?" Mr. P concluded: "My account of North Korea up to now clearly forebodes where it will go in the future." Saying that a change will take place in North Korea only after President Kim, an idol of the North Korean people, passes away, Mr. P stressed that rather than waiting for President Kim's death, our government has to do something before it. Under the caveat that it is his private opinion, Mr. P said:

"In North Korea, only hard-liners or moderates exist. But there are a few people who have studied abroad. If such people who have studied abroad have insight into the world's changes, it will be possible to have a dialogue with North Korea. To this end, our government has to make unceasing efforts, so that the North Korean middle class people can read about the world's moves. In East Germany prior to reunification, churches had received funds and assistance from the West and positively recommended that students travel abroad. When they were out of East Germany, the students found out that East German people were living a poor life and, as result of their investigation, they also found out that the East German political system was to blame. When you run into North Korean people, you do not have to say many words but just show them that you are well off. Young Soviets were once visiting the ROK. They had a tour of a department store. After the tour, they said that they were shocked as if their heart had stopped beating. If North Korean people come to the South, above all, I would recommend that you take them to department stores. When they have had a tour of a department store, there would be no need to say much.

Mr. P said that his identity should not be disclosed, because some North Korean circles daily analyze all South Korean printed media. However, he added that North Korea will change, if this kind of report is frequently carried.

Burma

Student 'Agitation Activities' Continue 11 Dec

BK1112152491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Some students, with the intention of creating unrest and of disturbing students who wish to pursue their studies peacefully and the general public who wish to live peacefully, performed agitation activities inside the main Yangon [Rangoon] University yesterday. Because they were not successful yesterday they again tried to create disturbances today.

At about 0930 a student shouted slogans with the intention of gathering a crowd as some students arrived in front of the Recreation Center. At about 1030 two students holding flags shouted slogans and performed agitation work in front of the Recreation Center, and the crowd grew to about 500. The crowd marched toward the Adipati Gate. Although the majority of the students watched the situation, they did not participate.

At about 1100 some students led by three students carrying flags left the Adipati Gate toward the Toungoo Hostel. They passed through the Toungoo Hostel and the Dagon Hostel, shouting slogans, and heading toward the Recreation Center. The rector and some faculty members later brought the situation under control, and from 1130 students who wished to pursue their studies peacefully left via the gate of the Institute of Economics. The remaining disturbance makers disbanded completely by 1200 and the situation returned to normal.

Universities, Medical Institutes Closed

BK1112152691 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The Office of the Minister for Education has issued an announcement today—11 December 1991—regarding the temporary closure of universities, degree colleges, colleges, and institutes. The full text of the announcement follows:

There have been disturbances due to a group of people trying to cause disturbances to students wishing to study in peace and due to some organizations inciting and using students for their selfish political gain. In the interests of the rule of law and of the peace and tranquility of the state, and taking into consideration the long-term interests of the students wishing to pursue their academic studies in peace, the following universities, colleges, and institutes have been closed temporarily beginning tomorrow, 12 December 1991:

1. Yangon [Rangoon] University
2. Mandalay University
3. Moulmein University
4. Yangon Institute of Technology
5. The Institute of Economics
6. The Institute of Education
7. The Institute of Agriculture
8. The Institute of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry
9. The Institute of Computer Science
10. The Mandalay Institute of Technology
11. Bassein Degree College
12. Sittwe Degree College
13. Magwe Degree College
14. Taunggyi Degree College
15. Myitkyina Degree College
16. Workers College
17. Pegu College
18. Prome College
19. Henzada College
20. Pa-an College
21. Tavoy College;
22. Yenangyaung College
23. Pakokku College
24. Meiktila College
25. Shwebo College
26. Monywa College
27. Lashio College
28. All institutes of technology
29. All institutes of agriculture
30. All technical high schools
31. All agriculture high schools

The Office of the Minister of Health has issued an announcement dated 11 December 1991 on the temporary closure of medical institutes.

The full text of the announcement follows:

There have been disturbances due to a group of people trying to cause disturbances to students wishing to study in peace and due to some organizations inciting and using students for their selfish political gains. In the interests of the rule of law and of the peace and tranquility of the state, and taking into consideration the long-term interests of the students wishing to pursue their academic studies in peace, the following medical institutes have been closed temporarily, effective 12 December 1991:

1. The Institute of Medicine-1, Yangon
2. The Institute of Medicine-2, Yangon
3. The Institute of Mandalay
4. The Institute of Dental Medicine

Rangoon 'Quiet But Tense' 12 Dec

BK1212065491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 12 (AFP)—Rangoon was quiet but tense Thursday morning as troops maintained a heavy presence the day after Burma's ruling junta shut down all universities and colleges, said western residents in the Burmese capital.

Heavily armed soldiers continued to cordon off Rangoon University campus where anti-government demonstrations broke out Tuesday and Wednesday, prompting the authorities to close institutes of higher learning nationwide, the residents said by telephone.

In downtown Rangoon, some eight kilometers from the campus, soldiers were stationed at main traffic intersections, they said.

The decision to shut down universities and colleges came after troops stormed the campus on Wednesday, making an unknowm number of arrests among student activisits who had organised the rallies.

The demonstrators demanded the release of prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the replacement of the junta by a democratic government.

Aung San Suu Kyi, this year's Nobel Peace prize winner and the daughter of Burma's independence hero Aung San, has been held incommunicado under house arrest since July 1989.

Her house is only a few hundred meters from the campus where the demonstrations took place with students chanting anti-government slogans and waving flags with a yellow peacock against a red background—the emblem of her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). Institutes of higher learning were only reopened in May in Burma after their closure during nationwide prodemocracy protests in 1988 when troops opened fire repeatedly on unarmed student-led crowds, killing thousands of demonstrators.

Students Leave for Home

BK1212142491 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Excerpts] As universities, colleges, and institutes have temporarily been suspended, university, college, and institute students in Yangon [Rangoon] have begun leaving for home to join their parents. In order to facilitate their journeys home, the Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council and the Yangon Military Command supervised the departure, while responsible officials from the Myanmar [Burma] Railways; the Road Transport Enterprise; the Inland Water Transport Enterprise; Myanmar Airways; the Bus Routes Control Committee; and the deans, rectors, and teachers provided necessary help.

Students were sent to their respective railway stations, piers, airports, and bus stations by car, and the teachers and the responsible officials provided whatever help was necessary. [passage omitted]

Those students who are still in Yangon will return home on 13 December.

Similarly, necessary help also is being given to the students in different states and divisions who are returning home by the state and divisional, township zone, and township law and order restoration councils and the departments concerned. It also is being given by the deans, rectors, and teachers.

The situation in Yangon, which is busy with its normal activities, is normal.

Actions of SLORC Over Nobel Award Discussed

BK1112023591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "SLORC Reminds World Why Suu Kyi Won Prize"]

[Text] In case there was any lingering doubt about the validity of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's predictable junta has laid it to rest. The self-styled State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) yesterday smashed a student rally celebrating the award to Burma's best-known personality. Riot police and army troops ringed Rangoon University with a cordon and machineguns before moving in. The campus confrontation occurred just hours before Mrs Suu Kyi's sons accepted the Nobel Prize on her behalf. The fact that yesterday was also Human Rights Day in the rest of the world unsurprisingly failed to daunt the Rangoon authorities.

Mrs Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest and effective internal banishment because she won a free election, now is a world symbol of non-violent resistance to a hard-hearted military regime. Torchlight parades in Norway and other countries at midnight celebrated her bravery and devotion to the rights of her countrymen and others. She has won praise from nations as diverse as China and Britain, Korea and America, South Africa and Costa Rica. Only in her homeland is it a criminal offence to praise the Nobel Committee's award.

Michael Aris, the husband of Suu Kyi, said at the award ceremony, "I am sure my wife would say that this prize in for all of Burma's people." She did not have that chance, of course. SLORC has made it clear that if Suu Kyi leaves Burma, it will be a one-way trip. The exact words she has used in rejecting foreign exile are not yet known. But her 515th day in house arrest yesterday spoke volumes by itself.

Adding to the growing weight of disdain for the SLORC was the outspoken report by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). In addition to slamming the laughable "justice" of Burma, the ICJ report heaped scorn on Rangoon for a string of confirmed offences ranging from the rape of the country's resources to using military conscripts as "human mine sweepers." The junta would do well to heed the words of this respected group. Continued rejection of even the most well-meant criticism is self-defeating.

SLORC has done the opposite of right for so long that it now seems to come naturally. Its actions against students who praised the Nobel award were in keeping with its conduct since Suu Kyi had the termerity to win a free election in May, 1990. The junta has become known throughout the world as a regime which has arrested thousands, and routinely tortured many. It has succeeded in surpassing most present-day governments in its reputation for downright cruelty, efficient repression, and kangaroo-court political justice.

In short, the junta has set itself up for a fall. Nobel Peace laureates from current or former extremist dictatorships such as South Africa, Poland, Russia and others gathered in Oslo to drive the point home. In time, Suu Kyi will join that august group, of her own free will. That happy day will mark the fall of yet another tyrannical regime which drove itself onto history's scrapheap. The irony is that Suu Kyi, daughter of one of the nation's most ardent patriots, never has wished for such a revolution. She has called for national reconciliation, respect for the military, and a brokered and calm move towards democracy.

The junta killed thousands of its citizens to seize power in 1988, and will not let go of authority easily. But yesterday's student demonstrations showed that the spark of desire for freedom has not died. With government agents photographing and taking details of those present, any Burmese voicing support for Mrs Suu Kyi today is showing uncommon defiance of the junta. A regime which disperses peaceful members of its population on Human Rights Day is clearly a government confident that its power can be held through the barrels of machineguns.

The brave example of Burma's most famous daughter is more likely to be the surviving symbol, however. There are those who hope that the SLORC goes quietly and peacefully, and there are those who hope for its downfall and humiliation. As Mrs Suu Kyi's son Alexander told the Nobel Prize dinner: "In the last resort, through the sheer economic unworkability of totalitarianism, this present regime will be swept away." The junta lacks any support, anywhere in the world, for its policies.

The hope for Burma, epitomised by a brave and commendable woman, is a peaceful but quick end to the dictatorship holding the country in isolation and fear. SLORC still can do what it should have done 18 months ago—free the political prisoners and negotiate the establishment of democracy. By holding the world's best-known political captive, the Burmese regime is merely increasing the calls for its downfall.

Dissidents Urge Tokyo To Stop Aid to Junta

OW1112130991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 (KYODO)—Fourteen associations of Myanmar [Burma] dissidents have jointly urged Japan to terminate "all the on-going and future" economic aid to the military junta to pressure the regime to hand over power to a democratically elected government.

"We appeal to the Japanese Government to suspend all political, economic, and cultural relations with the Burmese military regime and to terminate all existing, on-going and future programs that might aid the regime directly or indirectly until the transfer of power to the democratically elected government is completed," their joint statement said.

The statement, received by KYODO News Service, was issued in Oslo by the International Network for Democracy in Burma, the Burmese Association in Japan, the Burma American Fund and 11 other similar groupings of dissidents.

The statement was handed over to Japanese Ambassador to Norway Akiyuki Sawai by displaced dissident leaders at Oslo City Hall where the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony for detained Myanmar Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi took place.

At the ceremony, Aung San Suu Kyi's 18-year son accepted the award on her behalf.

In 1987, Japanese aid accounted for 71.5 percent of foreign economic assistance to Myanmar. Although Japan temporarily froze aid after the junta's seizure of power in 1988, it decided in February 1989 to release aid that had been committed prior to the suspension.

Karen Leader on Civilian Deaths in Delta Fighting

BK1212003591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Dec 91 p 6

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Karen National Union [KNU] president Bo Mya said yesterday Burmese government troops had killed over 200 civilians during an offensive against rebel forces in the Irrawaddy River plain in October.

Speaking at KNU headquarters in Manerplaw, opposite Mae Hong Son, Gen Mya said most of the civilians killed were Karens living in 10 villages in Bogale, Myo Mya and Boleta townships which are located near combat zones.

Democratic Alliance of Burma rebel forces have fought against Burmese army, navy and air force units commanded by Maj-Gen Myint Aung.

Rangoon TV, monitored in Mae Sot District of Tak, reported that 247 rebels had been killed compared to 27 Burmese troops and 35 others wounded in recent months.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

ASEAN Seeks To Restore Democracy in Burma

BK1212094491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0900 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus' visit to Myanmar last month, as a representative of ASEAN, cannot be considered as a failure in efforts to resolve the question of democracy in Myanmar [Burma].

Even though Manglapus was unable to meet Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, he nevertheless did meet six senior leaders of that country, Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Thursday.

Malaysia and her ASEAN colleagues would hold discussions and find a way to restore democracy in Myanmar and ASEAN would not be silent on this question, he said.

ASEAN hoped to bring gradually the leaders and people of Myanmar to the democratic system of administration, he added.

Dr. Abdullah Fadzil also said ASEAN had a responsibility to try its level best to resolve the Myanmar democracy question because it was an ASEAN neighbour.

He added other countries had also placed their confidence in ASEAN in resolving the Myanmar question.

ASEAN would seek the assistance of other countries only if it failed to resolve the problem, he added.

"ASEAN agreed to send Manglapus to Myanmar at its foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur last october," he added.

Mahathir Discusses Situation in Soviet Union

BK1112133091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0316 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia fears violence may erupt in the Soviet Union if its economy is not rehabilitated, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said. The Soviet people, particularly now unemployed members of the Armed Forces, would get more and more restless if the severe economic problems continued unresolved, he said.

"The important thing now is not the question of separation but the question of reviving the economy," he told reporters when commenting on the upheaval in the Soviet Union which is facing disintegration.

Three Soviet republics—Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine which controlled 70 per cent of the economy and accounted for 70 percent of the Soviet Union's population—on Monday formed a commonwealth and declared that the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

Dr. Mahathir said he had anticipated that such a development would take place.

Asked whether Malaysia would recognise the commonwealth formed by the three republics, Dr. Mahathir said the question of recognition did not arise at present. Nevertheless, Malaysia would have relations with all former republics of the Soviet Union, he said.

Soviet Envoy Reports No Change in Embassy Status

BK1212043891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0408 GMT 12 Nov 91

[By Juliana Omar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Soviet ambassador to Malaysia, Anatoliy I. Khmelnitskiy, said here that there was no change in the status of its embassy here which was operating as usual despite reports of upheaval in the Soviet Union.

All daily activities were proceeding as normal, he added Wednesday.

"Life has not yet stopped for us and we are not just waiting around for further instructions from our country," he said in an interview with BERNAMA at his residence here.

The situation was also the same for all Soviet embassies in other countries and no change had been made to the country's name, he added.

Khmelnitskiy said he did not expect to receive any instructions regarding the position of the embassy in the immediate future as the process of reshaping relations between the sovereign republics in his country was still in progress.

The three Slavic republics of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus proclaimed a commonwealth of independent states on Sunday and the end of the Soviet Union as a nation and entity.

"In view of the present situation in the Soviet Union, any kind of instruction given at the moment will be very premature as there is no new reality yet in the country," he added.

He said he was, however, closely monitoring the situation via Soviet television broadcasts and information received by the embassy through telex and fax messages.

What was happening in the Soviet Union after the three Slavic republics declared that they were forming a commonwealth to replace the Soviet Union was a natural result of a long process of democratic lessons for the people, he added.

He said he was not worried about the situation as proclamation was made by only three republics while all the other republics had yet to make their stand known.

Deputy Premier Ghafar Leaves for ICO Summit

BK0712125291 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba left for Dakar, Senegal today to attend the sixth summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He is heading a nine-member Malaysian delegation to the summit which includes Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Terengganu Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, and Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Khalil Yaacob.

The four-day summit begins on Monday [9 Dec] in the Senegal Capital, but is preceded by two levels of preparatory meetings—at foreign minister and senior officials' level—from today till Sunday [8 Dec].

Cambodia

Sihanouk's Speeches in Kompong Cham Reported

Speaks at Hospital 9 Dec

BK1212094991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, at the main hospital in Kompong Cham Province on 9 December—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father] Norodom Sihanouk, would like to pay respects to His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen and madame and all beloved compatriots, brothers, sisters, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, children and grandchildren whom I love and think of very much; to all excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen—national leaders and especially Kompong Cham provincial leaders; to the director of the main hospital of Kompong Cham city and all my beloved compatriots and children who are gathering here to welcome me; particularly to the hospital chiefs and ladies and gentlemen who are physicians, nurses, pharmacists, doctors of medicine, and all personnel in the health sector in particular:

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Hun Sen, our Cambodian prime minister, and madame for kindly arranging this visit in my program, thus enabling me to pay an official visit to our great province of Kompong Cham and this excellent hospital which is developing rapidly under the wise and energetic leadership of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Government which have made great efforts, day and night, to make the country develop rapidly. In the health, social, and humanitarian fields, I have visited very many places since my return to the motherland to live together with all compatriots, uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers, children, and grandchildren. I will stay with all of you until the end of my life. I am very glad to be able to return to live with all of you forever. This is thanks to the CPP and the SOC Government which have called me back to be the father of the nation as in the past, as the time prior to the coup d'etat staged by Mr. Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak and to Mr. Pol Pot's era. Now, we are living together harmoniously and with freedom, peace, and happiness as in the past, when we used to jointly strive to build the country, defend national independence, territorial integrity, and neutrality, and jointly serve the country in all aspects.

Thanks to the great efforts made day and night by the CPP and SOC Government, all of us, Cambodian nation and people, have enjoyed prosperity and happiness in all aspects, although starting from scratch in each domain.

Some friendly countries have promised to give us assistance. This includes the French friends as proved by the presence of France's Medicins sans Frontieres in this hospital. I would like to take this opportunity to express deep thanks to the Medecins sans Frontiers [Doctors Without Borders].

I would like to take this opportunity to inform all of you once again that I am very pleased with all the efforts, physical, mental, and intellectual, made by the CPP and SOC Government headed by Their Excellencies Chairmen Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin who have enabled me to visit places in Phnom Penh city, Kandal Province, Kompong Kantuot in Kandal Stoeng District, and now in Kompong Cham Province—both in the provincial town and various districts—which are making progress in all aspects.

Speaking about the field of health, efforts are being made in building hospitals, clinics, and centers for giving care to male and female orphans, my children and grandchildren, who had lost their parents and are under the care of the SOC.

In the field of education, there has been much progress, a great leap forward, worthy of sincere praise.

Now, I would like to salute the sacrifices made by my beloved children of the health sector, that is the outstanding hospital directors, medical doctors of all branches, pharmaceutical doctors, ladies, gentlemen, and nurses who have come to welcome me with a spirit of unity and respect for me. I and my wife are very happy to receive such a warm welcome from all of you present here and would like to inform you once again that I and my wife are very pleased with the sacrifices and the all-out efforts you have made day and night in serving our people, our compatriots, who are suffering from illnesses and health problems. You have done your best under the wise leadership of the directors and doctors. Therefore, I would like to pay respects to the outstanding sacrifices that all of you who are doctors and nurses of all sectors in this hospital and elsewhere in Kompong Cham Province and throughout Cambodia have made. You have carried out your tasks with such a great patriotic spirit and love for the people. I would like to express warmest commendation to you. [applause]

I have inaugurated various new achievements made by the CPP and the SOC Government and here I have also inaugurated an outstanding achievement. Here, the director and doctors also showed me all the outstanding achievements. I would like to express my commendation particularly to my most beloved and respected prime minister, His Excellency Hun Sen.

I have learned that this main hospital and the children's hospital are in need of the medical, scientific, and technical equipment and materials for treating the patients in these hospitals. Concerning this matter, I would like to inform all of you that before visiting Kompong Cham Province, many agencies of the United Nations sent their outstanding representatives to see me. Availing myself of that occasion, I invited three members of the SOC, namely His Excellency Dit Munti, representing His Excellency Hun Sen, and representatives of the tripartite movement whose leaders are members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] to that meeting under my chairmanship so that they could jointly discuss and negotiate with those UN officials. Those UN officials told me that they would help us, not just verbally but materially. That is, they would give us assistance in the form of equipment and materials that we need for improving our people's livelihood in all aspects and rebuilding our country, which has been ruined due to the war and the erroneous policy pursued by Mr. Pol Pot.

Therefore, they will help us in rebuilding our country so as to make it progress in the same way as all other civilized countries. We have lost much time since the coup d'etat on 18 March 1970. Therefore, they have promised to help me in rebuilding our country, to help the SNC so that it can quickly rebuild the country, and to help our SOC Government headed by His Excellency Hun Sen so that we have sufficient expertise and means to rebuild our country, bring more achievements for our people, and make our country prosper rapidly.

Thus, I would like to request the director of the hospital and the provincial governor to please make a list, a note, of your requirements so that I know about your urgent need and can forward it to these agencies. It would be best if it is written in Cambodian and French or English. I will forward it to them for consideration and urgent dispatch of aid especially to the people in Kompong Cham Province. I would like to request His Excellency Hun Sen to please allow His Excellency Dit Munti, who had attended that meeting, and whom I had already introduced to those UN agencies' representatives, to represent me, Samdech Euv Norodom Sihanouk, in directly contacting, and asking for, aid from appropriate agencies, such as the one in charge of health. They will then send their material aid to help all of you in Kompong Cham Province in resolving your problems. [applause]

In conclusion, I would like to distribute a little gift to you. It is just a small amount of material aid, not a big one, to relieve your minor shortage. His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen, on behalf of the CPP and the SOC Government, has also given me a list of donations for me to distribute to you and to this hospital. I will [words indistinct] by His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen. But first of all, let me donate this small sum of my personal money to this hospital for buying some minor things. This is just a small sum of 500 U.S. dollars. [applause]

This is my personal gift for you to buy some minor things for this hospital. It cannot buy huge things, but it is given out of my sincere heart. Now, I would like to read out the message that the prime minister has given me:

To the prince father:

1. For the main hospital, a gift of 5,000 riels to each patient [applause]. A gift of 5,000 riels, a piece of cloth enough to make a shirt, a scarf, and a sarong for each patient.

2. For the children's hospital, a gift of 5,000 riels to each patient [applause] plus a blanket, a piece of cloth enough to make a shirt, and a scarf.

3. Supplies for both hospitals include 300 cans of condensed milk, 650 cans of canned fish, 700 cans of pickled cabbages, 12 boxes of biscuit [applause], 450 blankets, 450 packages of assorted necessities, 100 cartons of instant noodle, 5 cartons of medicine, and 2,000 [words indistinct] now being packaged at the Kompong Cham Provincial Red Cross office. [applause]

His Excellency Hun Sen, my most beloved and respected prime minister, saw some mats and wanted to buy them for the patients. He is sending people out to buy them. Thus, there are also 500 mats among these gifts from the CPP and SOC Government. Here on this side are the gifts from the CPP and SOC Government. This is just a symbolic presentation to all children. [applause]

I would like to thank His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen who is the outstanding, the splendid, representative of the SOC Government and CPP. I would like to thank all children once again.

I would like to express best wishes to His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen and madame, their excellencies Chairmen Chea Sim and Heng Samrin and wives, his excellency the provincial governor and wife, all excellencies who are members of the SOC Government and wives accompanying me on this trip, excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, all compatriots, children, grandchildren, and particularly uncles, aunts, grandfathers, grandmothers, youths, students, and pupils present here and especially all my beloved and missed children who are outstanding members of the Health Ministry and hospitals in Kompong Cham Province, particularly those in Kompong Cham city's hospital. May all of you, excellencies and mesdames, gentlemen, ladies, uncles, aunts, children, grandchildren whom I love and think of very much, enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you. [applause]

Addresses Agricultural School Inauguration

BK1212105391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report on address by Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, at the inauguration of an agricultural school in Kompong Cham Province on 10 December]

[Summary from poor reception] I, Norodom Sihanouk, pay deep respects to all my beloved children, to His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, prime minister of our nation, and Madame, to H.E. the ambassador of Hungary and Madame, and to all ladies and gentlemen the leaders of Kompong Cham Province.

First of all, I would like to thank all excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen and all my children and grandchildren for inviting me to inaugurate this school of agriculture and rubber technology. "It is an honor for me to be able to preside over this solemn ceremony which is an excellent symbol of the immortal friendship between Cambodia and Hungary."

Meeting all of you here makes me think of those years before the 1970 coup d'etat when we were so happy and worked together throughout Cambodia and especially in Kompong Cham Province to build all kinds of achievements in all fields, enabling our motherland to develop and catch up with the modern times. I have fond memories of Kompong Cham as I still remember when I ascended the throne in 1941 I spent most of my salary on the construction of a high school here. We did not have many high schools in those days. There were only the Lycee Sisowath in Phnom Penh, Lycee Monivong in Battambang, and my Lycee Preah Sihanouk in Kompong Cham. Later on, I also contributed to the construction of many primary and secondary schools in various localities of this province and I commissioned the University of Kompong Cham. However, because of the coup d'etat staged by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak, the planes of the imperialists and Lon Nol bombed out most of these learning centers and other achievements we made together. In Lon Nol's wake, Pol Pot conducted the erroneous policy to the detriment of our nation, especially the educational sector where schools were closed down and intellectuals wiped out. That was a sad thing as we worked so hard to promote education and we even won a gold medal from the Shah of Iran for our successful campaign against illiteracy.

"Later on, in January 1979, the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government was formed and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] set up in our country, and a few weeks ago H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP, and H.E. Hun Sen, prime minister of the SOC, held that my pre-1970 policy was the correct one. This includes both domestic and foreign policy. The CPP and SOC Government then decided to adhere to my policy of the Sangkum Reas Niyum era. The CPP and SOC Government thus invited me to come back and become the Father of the Nation, the shade for Cambodia, as in the past. I am extremely moved to be vindicated 100 percent by the CPP and SOC Government. My deep thanks go to all involved." [cheers and applause]

I have witnessed the great development in Cambodia under the CPP and SOC Government. I can see many students and pupils returning to their schools everywhere. This makes me very happy and satisfied. "Helping the people all over the country, no matter how remote they may live, to become literate is the best thing, the great thing to do, for the foundation of our country's future development rests in education. In the past I appropriated the largest portion of the budget to the educational sector because education is the foundation of our national development, reconstruction, and defense. Before the coup d'etat we gave the biggest budget to education and the smallest one to national defense. This does not mean that I did not want to defend the country. On the contrary.

"At that time our country was fully independent and our territorial integrity complete like a round full moon. No countries were allowed to harm it because I defended it. But I defended it peacefully, with my neutral, nonaligned policy. That was our main weapon. At that time, it was not the money, but that policy that we used to fight in defense of the country. The war was caused by Lon Nol and associates who immersed our peaceful, happy, neutral, and independent nation into the U.S. Vietnam war. That was the cause of our suffering. And when Pol Pot took power, our suffering increased a hundred, a thousand fold."

We should not waste our time dwelling on the past, though. However, it constitutes a lesson for us to avoid taking the wrong path. "The choice of path made by the CPP and SOC Government, in my opinion, is the correct one. [cheers and applause] Let me tell all of you that the correct path is the one that makes us pursue an independent, neutral, and nonaligned policy. On this path, we can be fully independent. If we join this or that association, we might hurt our independence. A bigger country in such an association might look down upon or bully us. If we remain neutral, no one can belittle us. And we regard all others as our friends." As I told you in Kompong Cham Town, the whole world has become our friends now. In the past, we had some friends and some foes. Now the whole world is friendly to Cambodia. [applause]

The CPP and SOC Government have carried on the policy of Sangkum Reas Niyum, bringing achievements to different domains. I have not wasted time since 14 November to visit all my children in various localities, including Phnom Penh, Kandal, and now Kompong Cham. Wherever I go, I see development. I am the witness of the progress made in the country, including economic development. As I have already said, an independent economy is a major guarantee for the independence of our nation. Among the most important branches of the national economy is agriculture, which was world-famous in the pre-coup period when it brought considerable amounts of hard currency to the country from the export of our rice surplus. Therefore, agriculture is the most important branch of the national economy and let us not forget that nearly 80 percent of our population are farmers. Consequently, this agricultural school bears a great significance as it trains my children in agriculture which includes the growing of rice, corn, cotton, jute, and so on.

"There is one kind of produce that is very important called white gold. Coal is known as black gold, and white gold is rubber which is very useful and necessary to our national economy and independence. It is a most important product."

I thank H.E. Hun Sen and other leaders of the CPP and SOC Government and especially the Republic of Hungary for making it possible for this school of agriculture to come into being. [applause] We now are faced with the question of manning and equipping this school.

"As H.E. the Hungarian ambassador said just now, after helping us build the school, Hungary allows Cambodia to find as many experts and instructors from various foreign countries or from the United Nations as we can. H.E. the Hungarian ambassador also on behalf of his great country authorizes us to find measures and means to get learning equipment for the school to train our children here.

"I would like to tell you that it is possible to get all these instructors and research and training equipment because I am in permanent contact with various UN agencies that can help us. When I return to Phnom Penh, I will send H.E. Dit Munti, who is a minister of the SOC Government, to represent H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen. I need H.E. Dit Munti because when I met with the representatives of UN humanitarian and economic agencies in a meeting at the Royal Palace's Khemarin Pavillion, in which seven SNC members including me also participated, H.E. Dit Munti was also present and he was known to those UN representatives. I therefore am going to assign H.E. Dit Munti to discuss aid provisions with them in terms of various equipment necessary for the Hospital of Pediatrics in Kompong Cham and also for this school of agriculture."

Allow me to tell you that aid can be channeled in through both the United Nations and the individual aid-donor countries. For example, when H.E. Roland Dumas of France came to Cambodia he informed me and H.E. Hun Sen that France was anxious to help provide Cambodian schools with teachers and equipment. In conclusion, you, my children, should remain assured that all your needs will be met as desired. [applause]

"I would like to conclude my speech here because you have heard all I wanted to say. I am afraid you might think that I am repetitious, that I am repeating myself. I therefore would like to end my speech here." And since I am your Father, allow me to contribute U.S. $500 as a donation to the fund of this school. May the Triple Jewels of Buddhism bless H.E. Hun Sen and Madame, H.E. the Hungarian ambassador and Madame, and all excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen and save all of you, my children.

Son Sann Interviewed on Accord Implementation

BK1212124391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Dec 91

["Interview" with His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, by unidentified station commentator on 7 December 1991; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am the representative of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK] radio. My greetings to Your Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency for allowing me to hold another interview for the information of all VOK listeners.

On 27 November 1991, an incident occurred in Phnom Penh—the leader of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], Mr. Khieu Samphan, was attacked there. This has worried a number of our Cambodian people because they are afraid that the implementation of the Paris 23 October peace accord will stall. So, as you are the leader of a party and a member of the SNC, what is your suggestion about preventing such an occurrence from recurring?

[Son Sann] It is true that the incident in Phnom Penh on 27 November caused great concern to the international community, the five major powers, and the four parties, which have signed the accord forged by the five major powers. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and all of us were extremely worried and afraid that the accord will be blocked. That being the case, the four parties agreed to hold a meeting in Phatthaya and a solution was found. All agreed to go back and meet in Phnom Penh. The United Nations says the meeting has to be in Phnom Penh. Therefore, we have to be careful to avoid this kind of incident in the future.

Answering your question about what to do, here is my answer: All four parties signed the agreement supporting and accepting in full the solution of the five major powers. Therefore, we have to abide by the agreement and cooperate to definitely solve the problem of war in Cambodia and problems in general with the implementation of the solution formulated by the five major countries. I beg all four parties to be brave in serving the people and restoring peace. Anyway, I think that the only appropriate solution is the solution that the five major powers have achieved after a full year of negotiations in 1990 for a complete settlement of the Cambodian problem. After peace is restored and elections are held, the five major powers and other rich countries will assist us in the reconstruction of our countries. Therefore, I beg the leaders of the four parties to understand this so as to allow our people to live in peace and happiness in the future so nobody will remain poor as during the war.

[Correspondent] Thank you. You have on many occasions reasserted through the VOK and at meetings with the people that you want a better, harmonious national reunification. Can you tell us again about what must be done to allow the Cambodians to achieve a better union?

[Son Sann] I have a time-honored belief and as I have told the compatriots that in 1963, an international organization called [word indistinct] publicized my biography as well as my statement which says that if Cambodia wants to remain independent, all the Cambodian people should unite and achieve two goals: nationalism and democracy. At all times I have believed in this. Since 1976, I have asked the people—if they want to unite—not to argue about who is wrong or right. It is because of our mistakes that our country has become miserable and our compatriots have suffered. If wrong has been done, we should strive to understand one another. Do not insist on claiming that one is right. If we do not unite, the solution of the five major powers will come to nothing. If we are sincere and courageous enough to unite, we should understand and forgive one another. Only by doing so, can we move ahead and join hands to work within the SNC. And if we can work together and understand each other, our country will certainly enjoy peace and progress.

[Correspondent] Thank you. During my recent stay in Phnom Penh, personnally I have noted that the economic situation in Cambodia, if compared to that of other countries, remains tough—the living conditions of the people, especially of those who are working with the Hun Sen faction are still bad. So since you are a vanguard economist, can you tell whether there will be measures to correct and restore Cambodia's economy?

[Son Sann] At first, I wish to inform the people that in 1978, I met and talked to Mr. Hun Sen in Bogor [Indonesia]. I told him that I had no intention of dismissing those who were currently working in Phnom Penh. Because I believed that there were not enough competent people to work for the reconstruction of our country. Those who were working in Phnom Penh, however numerous they were, should not be laid off. We should instead mobilize competent and experienced people from other parties to jointly rebuild our country. I informed Mr. Hun Sen of this and he even said to me that he had never been told of this before. I want all compatriots, who are currently working in Phnom Penh and to whom we are obligated, to continue working. No one is going to be removed. So what are the measures to be adopted? I used to serve our country between 1946 and 1968 in the economic field under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk as king and afterward as head of state. The compatriots are already aware of my performance. And as I am still known in the international forum, I wish to serve our country within the SNC, which is composed of 12 members with the samdech as the chairman. I want the remaining 11 SNC members to be appointed to positions according to their competence. As for myself, I would like to assist in the economic and financial sector. I will be working with representatives from the four parties, not by myself. I ask that the four parties be designated as officials—such as bank governor or bank deputy governor and so on—so as to enable the international community to recognize us. When we work together we will get to know one another and have mutual trust, thereby allowing us to achieve national union. When we are able to work together, unite, and closely cooperate and when we work well, the international community will trust us and we can then ask for technical, financial, and economic aid. If we are able to work in this manner, the international community will trust us and will invest in our Cambodia. And those investments will create new jobs for all the compatriots. So the present-day officials will certainly be kept because countless new jobs will be created, and combatants who will be demobilized will be provided with all kinds of jobs, such as in the factories, tourism sector, hotels, and so on. So jobs will be plentiful. However, we should work according to our skills, our knowledge—for instance, those who are competent in the economic sector should be encouraged to work in that field. Only by doing so, can the problems in Cambodia be resolved. However, my only wish is that we should unite, understand one another, and avoid arguing about wrong or right. We should join forces to work no matter what. If I am asked to work, I will perform my duty in this way. I will work to help the country and everybody equally without discrimination against this or that party. I am resolved to find jobs for everyone, including the currently unemployed compatriots and the to-be-demobilized combatants.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Finally, do you have any recommendations to pass on to the clergy and compatriots?

[Son Sann] I would like to inform the revered clergy and beloved compatriots in the country, along the border, and overseas that I am sincere in what I have said above. I do not want any rift that will prolong the people's suffering. I want our country to live within the framework of the solution worked out by the five major powers. They have already bargained among themselves. We have to strictly implement so as to allow our Cambodia to recover peace according to the five powers' wish. Since the day from which our country started enduring suffering, I pray every day—two or three time a day or at least once—for the triple jewel to help our Cambodian people to regain peace and happiness and achieve national unification. Thank you and good-bye.

Ranariddh Interviewed on Power Decentralization

BK1212001591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Dec 91 p 6

[By Jacques Bekaert]

[text] Each member of the Supreme National Council should be in charge of a particular sector of Cambodia's political and economic affairs by the end of this month, Prince Norodom Ranariddh has said.

This followed a request by Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's Naitonal Liberation Front, Prince Ranariddh told the BANGKOK POST before flying to Europe. The prince will return to Phnom Penh on December 16.

Mr Son Sann, who is founder of the National Bank of Cambodia, asked to supervise banking and finance.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state, told Mr Son Sann that he will support the proposal.

The Khmer Rouge have not commented, but Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed some reluctance, Prince Ranariddh said.

Mr Son Sann said the proposal should help decentralise power in Cambodia.

Each SNC member would be assisted by their members of the other factions to ensure fairness.

Prince Ranariddh, who is secretary-general of FUNCINPEC, the former Sihanoukist party, and the commander-in-chief of the National Army for an Independent Cambodia, said he had little choice but to join the ruling party in an alliance.

No bipartite government would be formed before the general elections in 1993, but he insisted that he will maintain his alliance with Mr Hun Sen.

FUNCINPEC, as a party with little money, has to rely on the cooperation of the People's Party, which has ruled the country for 12 years.

"I have 18 months to make myself and our party known to the population. To be allied with the People's Party is the only choice we have for the moment," he explained.

"It is the only way we can get exposure. We used to be the party of Norodom Sihanouk and gained from his huge popularity. But now even the Phnom Penh party claims to be Sihanoukists. So we better campaign with Hun Sen. We should both benefit from our alliance," he said.

Prince Ranariddh believes that FUNCINPEC and the People's Party of Hun Sen and Chea Sim will be the most important parties after the elections and will probably form a new government together.

"Our alliance makes perfect sense in the framework of the UN-controlled elections. After all, one does run to win," he noted.

"During the war we had what was so often described as an uneasy alliance with the Khmer Rouge and the KPNLF. We have certainly not much in common with the Khmer Rouge. So the present alliance is normal and does not contradict any aspect of the peace agreement," he said.

Western countries which used to aid the non-communist resistance have told him they could not now support FUNCINPEC because it would seem to be interference in the internal matters of Cambodia, he added.

The alliance had stirred criticism in Cambodia and abroad, the prince admitted.

"Some Cambodians told me in Phnom Penh that I should not get too close to the regime. People say the ruling party has been discredited by its corruption. But do I have any choice? Is any country going to offer me money to run an independent campaign?" he said.

He had been frequently encouraged to join hands with Mr Hun Sen, for example, by the U.S. State Department, Prince Ranariddh claimed.

Thailand and China oppose a bipartite government before the general elections. Among ASEAN, Malaysia and Indonesia were favourable, whereas Singapore is strongly opposed, source said.

Should a bipartite government be formed, the prince said, he would ask FUNCINPEC ministers to declare their assets before becoming ministers.

"Our goal by entering the government would have been to try to limit corruption, and help Cambodian peasants ... but the November 27 attack on Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan made such a government impossible," he said.

A lot of international assistance is about to arrive in Cambodia and most of it will go to the government.

"Very little will be allocated to the resistance zones, and no Western funds will go to the SNC, for fear that part of it would go to the Khmer Rouge. As a member of the government, we would have been in a better position to help distribute the aid fairly," he said.

SNC Secretariat 'Might' Meet in Phnom Penh

OW1112134591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1154 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Bangkok, Dec. 11 KYODO—A meeting of the secretariat of the Cambodia Supreme National Council (SNC) might take place next week in Phnom Penh prior to a full-scale SNC meeting, a Cambodian source here said Wednesday.

The Khmer Rouge's representative to the SNC secretariat, Mak Ben, together with two other officials, is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh on December 17, and the secretariat meeting might take place right after their arrival in the capital, the source said.

The schedule for the return of the faction's leaders and SNC members, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, who were forced to flee Phnom Penh on November 27 after an angry mob attack, has not been worked out so far, according to the source.

Meanwhile, Son Sann, leader of the faction of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and Prince Norodom Ranariddh of the faction loyal to his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk, are scheduled to return to Phnom Penh on Sunday and Monday, respectively, the source said.

UNAMIC Officials View Mine-Clearing Work

BK1212110091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0408 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 12— Without mine-clearing, the largest United Nations operation in history may not get off the ground, U.N. officials were quoted by AFP as having realized after one month in Cambodia.

" The biggest problem is demining, " said General Michel Loridon, military chief of the U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

" It's even bigger than the SNC, even bigger than the problems with the Khmer Rouge," he added, referring to the difficulty of assembling all four rival factions of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) in Phnom Penh.

Colonel Alan Beaver of New Zealand, which contributed UNAMIC's 20 mine experts, left Wednesday for the United Nations in New York to testify that UNAMIC's mandate should be broadened to include mine-clearing, U.N. sources said.

Cambodia's countryside has been seeded with hundreds of thousands of land mines during 13 years of guerrilla war, many of them Chinese-made plastic anti-personnel devices impossible to detect with conventional equipment.

Few minefields are marked or even mapped, as the 200 to 300 Cambodians who have limbs blown off or mangled every month due to mines can testify.

UNAMIC's brief is currently limited to teaching " mine awareness " ahead of the deployment early next year of the much larger U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

UNTAC, in the biggest U.N. operation in history, is to observe Cambodia's ceasefire and oversee its administration until all 350,000 refugees can return home and general elections can be organized in early 1993.

But U.N. officials here do not want to wait for UNTAC before they start clearing mines.

They hope to set up a control center to assemble information on mines from all sources—local villagers, U.N. surveys, aid organizations and, most importantly, the rival armies.

The center would be linked to the SNC, where all four rival factions are represented, but its form has not been finalized.

" The first thing is to mark the minefields," Loridon told AFP on Tuesday, adding that actual mine-clearing will start " sooner than planned ".

China and other countries are expected to volunteer additional sappors for UNAMIC, he said.

"UNAMIC will be enlarged because of the problem of mines".

Loridon said minefields would have to be mapped and cleared before UNTAC's peacekeeping troops could deploy here.

" We need places to make camps, places to land helicopters, and we have to make sure they are free of mines".

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials also warned this week that not enough land was readily available to resettle returning refugees, due to a large part to mines.

U.N. soldiers would conduct the first mine-clearing operations, but in the long term they would train Cambodians to take over the dangerous task because "it's their country," Loridon said.

Colin " Mad Mitch" Mitchell, a Briton whose non-profit Halo Trust has launched an effective mine-clearing operation in Afghanistan, said training local inhabitants was the only solution.

"People back in Britain or New Zealand are not going to accept having their sons killed or wounded clearing mines in Cambodia. They might understand in wartime, but not in peace", he said.

Mitchell said Halo had developed equipment sensitive enough to detect plastic mines by their metal firing pin, but added that it also picked up any small pieces of metal from nails to shrapnel.

Heavy mine-clearing vehicles are also of limited value in Cambodia because at some points anti-tank mines have been stacked five or six deep, enough to blow the most heavily armored vehicle to bits, Michell 's partner Guy Willoughby said.

Mine-sniffing dogs can locate mines, although they must still be defused by hand, Willoughby said this week after he and Mitchell accompanied a UNHCR survey team to northwest Cambodia.

But Willoughby said that with the right training and equipment, teams could map most of Cambodia's minefields in four months and make a "significant impact" on demining in two years at an annual cost of six million dollars.

"It's a containable problem," he said.

Chea Sim Receives PRAVDA Editor in Chief

BK1212102991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 12 December at the National Assembly office, His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, National Assembly, and Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council, granted an audience to Gennadiy Seleznev, editor in chief of the newspaper PRAVDA of the Soviet Union [title as heard].

On that occasion, His Excellency Chea Sim cordially welcomed and considered the presence of PRAVDA's editor in chief in Cambodia the consolidation of the harmonious relations between PRAVDA and PRACHEACHON of the CPP. His Excellency Chea Sim also profoundly thanked the Soviet Union for its all-out assistance and support for the correct and just struggle of the Cambodian people, reasserting that the Soviet Union had played a vital role in a political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

For his part, Seleznev stressed that PRAVDA had intended to further expand the time-honored fine relations with PRACHEACHON. He pointed out that PRAVDA had previously been the paper of the CPSU, but at this new stage, it becomes an independent newspaper among other independent bulletins in the Soviet Union having the duty to support the idea of national reunification.

India's Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

BK1212095691 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 12 December, a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of India led by His Excellency Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for External Affairs, arrived for an official visit to Cambodia from 12 to 15 December.

On hand to welcome to the delegation at Pochentong Airport, were Long Visalo, deputy foreign minister of the State of Cambodia; [Sudi], charge d'affairs of the Indian embassy to Cambodia, as well as several other cadres of the Foreign Ministry.

During its visit to Cambodia, the Indian delegation will hold a working meeting with Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], pay a courtesy visit to His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the SNC, and meet with His Excellency Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the SNC.

His Excellency Eduardo Faleiro will also be received in audience by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—head of state of Cambodia, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the SNC.

Indonesia

Suharto Returns Home; Overseas Trip Detailed

BK1212093191 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] President Suharto returned home last night after a 23-day trip to five countries in Latin America and Africa. Here is a report by my colleague Darius Umari on the results of the president's visits and on important parts of a briefing by the head of state aboard the aircraft on his way back from Dakar to Jakarta.

[Begin recording] [Umari] Ladies and gentlemen! The visits to two Latin American and three African countries were the president's longest ever trip since he assumed his post in the mid-1960's. The 23-day trip started on 19 November and ended on 11 December. President Suharto was accompanied by three ministers of the Fifth Development Cabinet—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Minister and State Secretary Murdiono, and Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industries,—during the trip. As part of the trip, he attended two important summits—the G-15 [group of 15 developing countries] or South-South summit in Caracas, Venezuela and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit in Dakar, Senegal.

President Suharto regarded the G-15 summit as proof of Indonesia's high position among the developing countries. This was demonstrated partly by Indonesia's success in proposing development projects within the framework of South-South cooperation.

[Suharto] Indonesia proposed to the summit several development projects within the framework of South-South cooperation. The projects, though small, will eventually boost the capabilities of members of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] as well as other south countries if they are really undertaken. This will in turn serve as an important factor for to the North-South dialogue.

[Umari] According to the president, the sixth ICO summit in Dakar, Senegal gave Indonesia the opportunity to make proposals for improving the political situation in the Middle East—the long-standing Arab-Israeli crisis in particular and normalization of relations among fellow Arab countries following the Gulf war.

[Suharto] Indonesia's proposals to the conference centered on [words indistinct] as well as cooperation among the ICO member countries. This included efforts to heal the wounds of the Gulf war involving fellow Arab countries to enable the ICO members to settle the matter and reassert Islamic solidarity in accordance with the Islamic teachings themselves. Only after this will we be able to overcome problems relating to one another's interests as well as other major problems, including the threat to security in the Middle East posed by the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Umari] In the run-up to the nonaligned summit to be held in Jakarta in early September 1992, President Suharto used his foreign trip to clarify Indonesia's domestic situation to heads of state whom he met with in Mexico, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Senegal. The president also met the head of state of Guinea-Bissau which has no diplomatic relations with Indonesia. The Guinea-Bissau head of state took this opportunity to express his desire to establish diplomatic relations with Indonesia.

Ladies and gentlemen! Protocols on cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, and technological fields were signed with the countries that President Suharto visited. The protocols will serve as a basis for the enhancement of broader bilateral relations. In fact, no concrete agreements to undertake such cooperation have been signed. However, the president's foreign trip has contributed fundamentally to our national life. Its concrete results will be visible through the attitude of NAM members toward Indonesia after the nonaligned summit in Jakarta in September 1992. [end recording]

Minister on Importance of National Stability

BK1112065791 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Sudomo, coordinating minister for politics and security, says that national stability is obviously part of the trilogy of development. Thus, the matter should not be exaggerated to the extent that people are afraid of talking about it. The coordinating minister for politics and security made the remarks replying to questions by reporters after opening a seminar in Jakarta yesterday on the exploitation of national airspace as a development asset.

He said that it would be erroneous to think that stability is not needed because this is very important for implementing democracy. According to Sudomo, stability should have at least three elements—the Constitution, democracy, and laws. Thus, the coordinating minister for politics and security called for discussions about stability to be strictly within the framework of the trilogy of development.

Minister Attributes Rice Imports to Long Drought

BK1212104191 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Bustanil Arifin, cooperatives minister and head of the National Logistics Board, says that Indonesia has to import 600,000 metric tons of rice from Burma, the PRC, and Vietnam due to a long drought. Speaking in Medan yesterday before proceeding to Banda Aceh, the minister said Indonesia's rice bowls such as Central Java, East Java, and Kalimantan had experienced substantial harvest failures due to the long drought some time ago.

According to Minister Bustanil Arifin, it would still be possible to increase the imports if operations being undertaken in markets discover that the rice demand is higher than expected. However, the current stock will be sufficient until the first quarter of 1992.

Of the 600,000 metric tons of imported rice, a total of 100,000 metric tons were those that Indonesia loaned to Vietnam some time ago.

Islamic Fundamentalist Leader Arrested 19 Nov

BK1112140191 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 30 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] Bandung, 30 November—Abdul Patah Wiranagapatik, a 68 year old leader of DI/TII [State of Islam/Islamic Army of Indonesia] movement, which wants to establish an Islamic state in Indonesia, was arrested by the authorities in his hideout in Tani village, Ngampah subdistrict, Bandung District, on 19 November. Born in Kuningan, West Java, he had been a fugitive wanted by the authorities for a long time.

Speaking to reporters in Bandung on 28 November, Major General R. Nuryana, commander of the Siliwangi Third Military Region and chairman of the West Java regional Agency for the Maintenance of National Stability, said that the suspect was also a preacher of the NII [Islamic State of Indonesia] movement.

Maj. Gen. Nuryana noted that the suspect was very determined in his efforts to establish an Islamic state. He was active in teaching Muslim youths who had undergone initiation ceremony under a man called Aceng Kurnia, as well as other youths whom he himself had recruited.

One of the youths he had recruited called Ridwan was involved in the Way Jepara incident in Lampung. However, when Abdul Patah was interrogated by the authorities, he refused to acknowledge his involvement in the incident because he believed the Jakarta chapter of the NII movement had masterminded the incident.

Banker Views Telecommunications Developments

BK1212105291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0951 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 12 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia has taken correct steps in developing its telecommunications but has not yet fully allowed the participation of the private sector as expected, a World Bank official said here on Wednesday.

Speaking in a two-day seminar on the development of telecommunications in the developing countries, Peter R. Scherer of the World Bank [WB] said Indonesia's telecommunications development which applied satellite technology was a step ahead of other developing nations.

However, Scherer said, the participation of the private sector in telecommunication development was still limited by a number of telecommunications rulings which do not fully open the door for the private sector.

He expressed his hope that the Indonesian Government would provide a wider chance for the private sector in the development of telecommunications in the country.

In response to the WB official's remarks, Bomer Basaribu of the Golkar [Functional Group] faction of the House of Represenatives (DPR) said that the present condition in Indonesia is not yet suitable with an open market mechanism which gives a chance for the private sector to dominate the economy.

"An open market mechanism can be applied as long as it is oriented to social welfare and justice," Pasaribu said, adding that telecommunications occupied a strategic position—just like a number of economic sectors—which should be under the control of the state.

Meanwhile, Minister of Tourism, Posts, and Telecommunications Susilo Sudarman said the telecommunications subsector in Indonesia received the biggest World Bank fund compared with that in other countries.

The World Bank provided 350 million U.S. dollars to help finance the first project for the installation of 600,000 line units of telephone connections which was agreed in March 1991.

Philippines

Antibases Senators Agree on Commercial Arrangement

HK1212015891 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The antitreaty senators have expressed acceptance on the proposed commercial arrangement between the Philippines and the United States regarding the use of Subic Naval Base instead of an executive agreement for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces. The senators stressed that they wanted the U.S. bases put to commercial use but the offer must come first from the U.S. State Department before the Philippine Government can discuss and decide on the matter. Meanwhile the Philippines is hoping that the United States will agree on the three-year phase out period of Subic Naval Base and the executive agreement will be signed on 31 December even if Washington wants to use the base after the grace period. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that Washington is changing its initial position on Subic and expressed the desire to use the base after the agreement expires.

Resolution Declares Senate President Post Vacant

14 Senators Sign Document

HK1112121191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Report by anchorwoman Jennifer Postigo at the Manila studio and field reporter Restie De Quiros of DZRH Unit 8 at the Senate—live; italicized passage in English]

[Text] [Postigo] The resolution formally declaring the position of the Senate president vacant. Let us get the details from the report of DZRH Unit 8, Restie De Quiros please come in.

[De Quiros] Yes, thank you very much, Jennifer. At exactly 1900 [1100 GMT] today, Senate resolution numbers 13 and 21 declaring the position of the Senate president vacant, were formally presented. Simultaneously, senator signatories of the resolution called for an immediate election to fill the vacancy. Here friends, are parts of the reasons of the senators who signed the resolution, namely: Senators Alvarez, Angara, Aquino, Estrada, Gonzalez, Herrera, Lina, Maceda, Mercado, Osmena, Paterno, Romulo, Shahani, and Tamano—who all together are fourteen members of the Senate.

According to them, as worded in their resolution, it says here: *Whereas the leadership in the Senate should reflect at all times the confidence of the majority of its members; whereas we, the undersigned, have lost our confidence in the leadership of the incumbent Senate president; now therefore, let it be hereby resolved that the office of the Senate president be, as it is hereby declared, vacant; and immediately hold an election to fill the vacancy.*

That was signed by fourteen members of the Senate which is described to be more brutal compared to the first resolution presented calling only for Senate President Jovito Salonga to step down. However, there was a revision or amendments and now it become brutal because the position of Senate President Jovito Salonga was out rightly declared vacant already.

[Postigo] Restie, Restie.

[De Quiros] Yes, Jennifer?

[Postigo] So this does not mean that Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP] President Senator Neptali Gonazales will be the next Senate president? So an election will still have to be conducted?

[De Quiros] Not yet, because no election has been conducted yet. Any one member of the Senate now is eligible to become the next president of the Senate. So as of now, they declared the position of the Senate president vacant. Yet on the other hand, a counter resolution was filed by the other nine senators who did not sign the resolution, and they asked that Senate President Salonga be retained as Senate president. They are Senators Enrile, Laurel, Ziga, Tanada, Rasul, and other members of the Senate. According to them, any change in the leadership of the Senate will have to undergo a parliamentary procedure, which means that both resolutions will have to be presented. So a heated debate is expected to ensue tomorrow in the Senate regarding this issue.

[Postigo] Restie, who do you think is the most likely replacement to Senate President Salonga aside from Senator Neptali Gonzales?

[De Quiros] You know, the unanimous choice to be the next president of the Senate is Senator Neptali Gonzales.

[Postigo] Okay.

[De Quiros] Okay, that's all we can report for now. I repeat, at 1900 today, the resolution declaring the position of the Senate president vacant, was formally presented; and an immediate election to fill the vacancy was sought. From the Senate, with Ed Espiritu and Peter Punzalan, this is Restie De Quiros of Unit 8 reporting on-the-spot for DZRH.

Dissenting Senators Comment

HK1112115991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 91

[On-the-spot interview with Senators Sotero Laurel, Edgardo Angara, Nepthali Gonzales, Orlando Mercado, Ernesto Herrera, and John Osmena by reporter Restie de Quiros of DZRH unit no. 8 and anchorman Joe Taruc at the Senate Building, Manila—live, italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] [De Quiros] Sessions here at the Senate were interrupted after a resolution asking the Senate president to step down was filed. We see that 13 senators have already signed this resolution asking Senate President Salonga to step down. We still have more senators signing.... [De Quiros changes thought] I have here beside me Senator Sotero Laurel. Let us find out if he signed the resolution. Sir, could we find out if you signed this resolution asking Senator Salonga to step down as Senate president?

[Laurel] Nine? Only nine? [as heard]

[De Quiros] Sir, did you sign this resolution?

[Laurel] It has not yet been presented to me.

[De Quiros] But, sir, we can see it here and some of your fellow senators have already signed it. I saw the signatures of Senators Maceda, Osmena, Paterno, Tamano—a total of 13 senators.

[Laurel] Oh, no. I do not agree. I will not sign.

[De Quiros] Why, sir?

[Laurel] For I believe that *the leadership is in good hands.* [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] Senator Maceda refused to give a statement at this moment. However, we have here Senator Edgardo Angara. Sir, may we know if you also signed this resolution?

[Angara] I signed the resolution because I believe that a new leader is needed for the final five or six months of the Senate. There are still a number of important pending bills which *need direction, guidance and the cooperation* of both the Senate and the executive.

[De Quiros] Sir, may we know briefly what the resolution actually contains? Is it asking Senate President Salonga to step down from his Senate presidency or is it asking him to give up his being a senator? What does this resolution really contain?

[Angara] Well, the resolution basically provides for a change in the top leadership of the Senate. You cannot ask Senator Salonga to give up his being a senator because we were not the ones who gave him that position. It was given to him by our countrymen. So briefly, the resolution involves the change of the top leadership of the Senate—that is it.

[De Quiros] Sir, can we not say that this move is a little too late since there are only a few months remaining before the end of sessions? Some of our countrymen might even say that this is a political move.

[Angara] There are still five weeks of actual sessions remaining. Three weeks this coming January to February, and two weeks in May and June. So, those remaining five weeks of actual sessions are still a long time. *But in terms of calendar period,* we still have six months remaining. So there are still a lot of things which this Congress can do.

[De Quiros] Sir, may you clarify whether the pending resolution involves only Senator Salonga's Senate presidency, not his being a senator itself?

[Angara] It is clear, we cannot repeal his being a senator for the people themselves have appointed him. [passage omitted]

[Taruc] Who is the Senate majority eying to replace Senator Salonga?

[Angara] To those fourteen [figure as heard] senators who signed this resolution, they have chosen Senator Nepthali Gonzales, and I believe that he will be elected to replace Senator Salonga.

[Taruc] Is it possible for a change in the Senate's leadership to occur this afternoon, Senator?

[Angara] There is a possibility. However, it will depend.... [Angara changes thought] I think Senator Gonzales and Senator Salonga are now talking, and if they agree that the election could be held now, then a change may occur now.

[Taruc] What is hindering the change in leadership?

[Angara] If Senator Salonga does not voluntary step down, then we will have to file the resolution *declaring the position as vacant.* So the election for the new leadership may occur either tonight or tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] I have beside me Senator Nepthali Gonzales, and we will try to get his opinion on this matter.

Excuse me, may we get your opinion on this?

[Gonzales] Hello?

[Taruc] Good afternoon, Senator.

[Gonzales] Good afternoon, Joe.

[Taruc] What is this we hear that there might be a change in the leadership of the Senate this afternoon?

[Gonzales] I do not think it will happen this afternoon, Joe. Well, I confirm that there has been talk between some groups of senators here *who would want a change in the leadership . And they are.... [Gonzales changes thought] I mean, they may call upon the Senate president to step down, pave the way, for the election of a new leader.* But as of the moment, no new resolution has yet been filed.

[Taruc] So the resolution has not been filed?

[Gonzales] No, not yet.

[Taruc] It is said that you had the opportunity to talk with Senate President Jovito Salonga. May we know the details of your discussion?

[Gonzales] *If the resolution is really [word indistinct] signed and ready for filing, then we won't file it until we have a chance to talk this matter over with the Senate President.*

[Taruc] Did you have the opportunity to discuss this matter with Senator Salonga, Mr. Senator?

[Gonzales] No, because we still do not have a resolution with the required number of signatures. *It's not easy to talk without that as the basis.*

[Taruc] We understand that you already have 13 or 14 signatories; how many signatures do you require to ratify the resolution?

[Gonzales] *For a body of 23, I mean technically, I mean, only twelve senators would constitute a majority. You know the Senate.... [Gonzales changes thought] The leadership of any house, whether it is the Senate or it is the House, must always reflect the will and the confidence of a majority of its members. That applies at all times. So at any time, the....*

[Taruc, interrupting] With 13 or 14 signatories, what may be the problems that would hinder the filing of such a resolution?

[Gonzales] Okay, Joe?

[Taruc] Senator, with 13 or 14 signatories in the resolution, what problems may arise that would prevent it from being discussed?

[Gonzales] Well, it is not like that, Joe. We are all colleagues here, *and common decency requires that the parties interested or affected by such a resolution be informed first, before it is filed.* We still have a civilized society. [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] As of now, we are still here at the Senate floor where the session was suspended following a move to present a resolution for the ouster of Senator Jovito Salonga as Senate president. Let us get the reactions of Senators Orly Mercado, Jose Lina, and John Osmena who are now in front of us. Let us first ask Senator Orly Mercado why he signed in this request for Senate President Jovito Salonga to step down from his position. Sir?

[Mercado] Well, this resolution is only asking the [Senate] president, *in view of the fact* that there will be presidential elections and the Senate will conduct the canvassing, and he is a presidential candidate, to as much as possible *he steps down so that we can make the preparations already.* And that is what I signed. There is another resolution *declaring the position vacant,* which I did not sign because I believe that *at this stage, I think the Senate president will see our request in a positive light and he will act on it positively.* [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] You know this move by some members of the Senate triggered speculations among our people that Senate President Salonga is being pressured to step down to lessen his strength as a presidential candidate within his own Liberal Party [LP]; and give a chance to former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan to enter the LP and be made standard bearer.

[Mercado] That is not the objective and I believe that even if that doesn't happen, our candidate Celing Fernan is still strong. *We are not dependent on the weakness of others to run. We are dependent on our own strength.* [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] Here is Senator Ernesto Herrera. Sir, may we know if you signed this resolution?

[Herrera] I am included in that. That is what I was saying this morning, *that there is a big event that would be unfolding either today or tomorrow. So, I'm one of the signatories, and hopefully, there will be a reorganization either today or tomorrow.*

[De Quiros] *What made you decide to sign this resolution?*

[Herrera] *Well, first is that the Senate president will be a candidate for president, and under the Constitution, congress will be the one to count the votes of the president and vice president. So I thought that the senate president should be one who has no ambition or does not plan to run for president or vice president.*

[De Quiros] Sir, a while ago, I interviewed a number of senators, and the reasons of the senator signatories seem to be one and the same, that Senate President Salonga has to step down because of the coming election. That decision seems to be a collective one.

[Herrera] *That's one. Yes, there is a.... [changes thought] I'm alarmed that if you look at the surveys, the rating of the Senate is negative 40. So there must be something wrong in the management of the Senate.* I can see the Senate failing to be responsive *to the needs and the demands of the people.* [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] Senator Osmena is also here. Sir, we are from DZRH. May we know sir, what can you say about this resolution? It seems that a while ago, when the Senate president learned that a resolution will be presented, he voluntarily stopped the session and until now, he has not yet come back.

[Osmena] I also don't know where he is.

[De Quiros] Sir, may we know what is the substance or summary of this move by some senators?

[Osmena] First of all, the representatives of the Social Weather Station [as heard]. And it came out from their survey that the rating of the Senate by the public is negative 40. This means that only 30 percent approves of the Senate and 70 percent is against. That emanates from the kind of leadership the Senate has. The program of the Senate cannot really be completed. We have to arrest that public perception of the Senate. So we need new leadership. [passage omitted]

Salonga Reacts to Resolution

HK1212063891 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga stressed that he will never assert himself to persist in his position. This was his reaction to the request of 14 senators that he resign from his post.

According to Salonga, it is easy for him to leave his position and he is not clinging tight to his position as he has been accused of doing. Nonetheless, the senators have no basis to immediately oust him from his post. Salonga believes that his rivals are doing everything to topple him.

Senate Adjourns; Ouster Unresolved

HK1212064791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 12 Dec 91

[By Jojo Ismael; italicized passage in English]

[Text] The Senate has adjourned its regular session today without resolving the proposed 1992 budget, the bases conversion, or the resolution seeking Senator Jovito Salonga's ouster as Senate president.

In a motion filed by Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, the Senate session has been formally declared adjourned and will only meet again in May next year. Enrile cited the lack of a quorum in his motion for adjournment. Enrile said the Senate can not make any move in the absence of a majority of the senators.

For his part, Salonga said the government may use the 1991 budget as its basis. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, those wanting Salonga's dismissal, headed by Senator Neptali Gonzales, said the adjournment is allegedly illegal. They are planning to meet today even in Salonga's absence. Here is Salonga's comment:

[Begin Salonga recording] *After [word indistinct] that would be an illegal session.* Who would act as their minority floor leader, when we are all out here? [referring to the senators in his camp whose attendance is needed to make a session legal even after adjournment] [end recording]

Gonzales Named New Senate President

HK1212074191 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0630 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with Senator Heherson Alvarez by reporter Paul Velasco in the Senate building—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Alvarez] ...leadership. But before doing this, Senator Gonzales and other senators here, like Senator Romulo, went to Senator Salonga and sought his permission. Senator Salonga told them that if they have the majority, they can go ahead. So they went ahead and had this session. They approved the budget and declared vacant the Senate presidency. They then proceeded with the election of Senator Gonzales and other Senate officials.

[Velasco] Does this mean that Senator Gonzales is now the senate president until the end of the senate's session?

[Alvarez] Yes. It is he. As of today, we have already approved some important bills. He will be such until the reopening of the Senate in January or on 4 February.

[Velasco] Are there changes in the Senate committee chairmanships?

[Alvarez] No. The only change is the chairmanship of the Committee on Rules. Senator Romulo became the majority floor leader who is also the chairman of the Committee on Rules. We changed the sergeant at arms, the secretary of the senate. There are minor reasons for the changes.

[Velasco] Okay. That's all we have for the moment. The session is now about to begin. We will talk to Senator Alvarez later.

[Anchorman, cutting in] The budget, my friend, the budget is important.

[Velasco] Roger, Roger. Maybe that is the one....

[Anchorman, interrupting] Wait a minute. Where will Salonga sit if he returns?

[Velasco] That we do not know because the seat arrangement has been changed. There were changes. The Senate majority floor leader always sits in the front seat.

[Anchorman] Who is our majority floor leader now?

[Velasco] Senator Alberto Romulo. He is our new senate majority floor leader.

[Anchorman] And Salonga will now be included in the minority?

[Velasco] Maybe he will be with the minority and will be with Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, Senators Tanada, Ziga, Rasul, Pimentel, Laurel, and Saguisag. There are nine senators who did not sign the resolution signed by 14. But there are only 13 senators here. Senator Joseph Estrada is not around because he has an important engagement. Presiding over the ongoing session is Senator Neptali Gonzales who, based on the explanation of Senator Heherson Alvarez earlier citing the visit and talk with Salonga afterwhich there was a declaration of a vacancy in the Senate presidency, has been voted as the new senate president of the Republic of the Philippines.

This is XL-14, Paul Velasco reporting for DZXL.

Takes Oath of Office

HK1212092291 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[By Paul Velasco of mobile unit XL-14]

[Text] After taking the oath as the new senate president, Senator Neptali Gonzales swore in Ismael Aparri as the new sergeant at arms and Lorenzo Llemet as the new senate secretary. At the same time, Senators John Osmena and Joseph Estrada formally apologized to the public due to the confusion brought about by their action. Joseph Estrada said Senator Jovito Salonga should accept that this is inevitable because of his plan to run in the presidential election. Estrada explained he has no personal reason to fight Salonga as he respects him, but said that the election result is at stake if they do not remove Salonga from the position.

Meanwhile, at about 1525 a Senate session was started and presided over by the newly elected senate president, Neptali Gonzales. He announced that they will resume session on 13 January 1992. The Senate session has been formally adjourned at 1535 today and will resume on 13 January 1992.

In related news, the group of Senate President Jovito Salonga will reportedly hold a session at 1700 today.

Ramos Discusses Withdrawal From LDP Party

HK1212075891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0300 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Interview with former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, by Anchorman Joe Taruc on "Liberty in Action" program at the Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH studios—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Taruc] When you resigned last Monday [9 December] from the Struggle of the Filipino Democrats [LDP], many believed you had another agenda. Is it true that you have decided to run for president in 1992?

[Ramos] You know Joe, I can see and it is clear that many people are supporting me, and they have chosen me to represent their principles and desires. Even though I am not a *professional politician*, I am trying my best to protect and help retain our new democracy, which we attained February 1986 by means of the people's power revolution. It would be a waste if the gains and achievements of the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue [EDSA] revolution and the Cory administration are not continued beyond 1992. A lot of people have sacrificed, including myself, to attain freedom. The majority of the concerned citizens, who are also the silent majority, are clamoring to keep up the EDSA spirit.

[Taruc] Secretary Ramos, since your resignation from the LDP last Monday, I guess you have noticed that there were a lot of opinions and criticisms that came out from the different sectors of society. There are people who are saying that Secretary Ramos has violated the gentlemen's agreement with Speaker Mitra; there are others who are saying that your decision to resign from the LDP was even worse than what a traditional politician normally does. *How did you react to these, Secretary?*

[Ramos] You know Joe, I am prepared *to absorb all criticisms. In fact, It is even very risky for me professionally and career wise to take this step that I took* but I just put this aside and what is important is that we are fighting for a principle that came from our EDSA revolution in 1986. Our countrymen, especially the common Filipinos, should now be self-reliant and should be *a participant or even a contributor* to our society instead of becoming *a subject of charity, compassion, dole out, and relief assistance. So many of our people are tactically beggars now, not in the streets but for any good thing that they are entitled to* and that came from our political systems which up to now have not changed.

[Taruc] *Secretary Ramos, after you announced your resignation from LDP, it was reported* that you came from Malacanang Palace and talked with President Cory Aquino. Does President Aquino have something to do with your decision to resign from the LDP?

[Ramos] In fairness to the president, my decision to resign from the LDP was only my decision. *That was my decision over the weekend after first looking at how the Executive Committee of the LDP treated my very strong* *recommendations or investigations of the reported irregularities observed during the LDP convention of 30 November.* President Aquino had nothing to do with it. I came to her office only to inform her that I was resigning as an LDP member. *About the same time that I dispatched my letters of resignation to the president of the party; Senator Neptali Gonzales; and Congressman Peping Cojuangco, secretary general of the party.*

[Taruc] Secretary, yesterday it was reported that you were intending to revive and strengthen the Laban [People's Struggle] Party or the Laban [People's Power] Party, which was the party of the late Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr. of 1978. There are people from Mitra's camp and other LDP members are saying that your intention to use the party is out of order and you have no right to use the political party. What is your reaction to this, Mr. Secretary?

[Taruc] You know, Joe, there are stories that came out of an evening newspaper. What I think is that it is just an enterprise story of the reporter. I was not even asked regarding that matter and I never even said anything on that matter. When I inquired, I found out there was an announcement from ex-Naga City Mayor Monico Imperial, who is currently the Laban [People's Struggle] chairman. He wants *me to join the Laban [People's Struggle] because the Laban [People's Struggle] would welcome me and maybe* that party will also be included in the coalition that we are currently forming. *Now it is clear that chairman imperial of the Laban [People's Struggle] is the incumbent chairman. And it is confirmed in the records of the Commission on Election.*

[Taruc] *Is this the very same Laban [People's Power] that was founded during the 1978 election, Mr. Secretary?*

[Ramos] *No, this Laban [People's Struggle] of Monico Imperial came out in 1986.* This is what we call the People's Struggle and the acronym is Laban. Regarding the party that came out last 1978, *which was founded by ex-Senator Ninoy Aquino, is the People's Power and the acronym is also Laban and the eventually became the PDP-Laban [Nation's Strength], now headed by Senator Nene Pimentel.*

[Taruc] So they are different?

[Ramos] It looks like they are different, *although I think they are related because both are supportive of either Ninoy Aquino or Cory Aquino or both.* Because the 1986 version of the Laban [People's Struggle], whose incumbent chairman is ex-Mayor Monico Imperial, is also a political party that supported Cory Aquino in her candidacy as president against the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

[Taruc] *So, in other words, this Laban [People's Struggle] that you are forming now is different to the Laban [People's Power] that was formed by the late Senator Ninoy Aquino?*

[Ramos] *Looks like it is different, Joe, and I was surprised at the reactions of Speaker Monching Mitra and Congressman Nani Perez,* their reactions are very violent and I think that they are very nervous about and maybe insecure even. But they are barking up the wrong tree. I hope that they asked the chairman of the present version of the Laban [People's Struggle] of ex-Mayor Monico Imperial and they should verify what Chairman Imperial have really said about this in relation to my candidacy as a president.

[Taruc] Okay.

Abadia To Recommend 48-Hour Christmas Truce

HK1212025991 Quezon City MALAYA in English 12 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] will recommend a truce lasting no more than 48 hours each for Christmas and New Year.

Saying that the cessation of military offensives would apply only to leftist insurgents, Abadia said any extension of the period is up to President Aquino.

"The stand of the AFP is still (the same). We recommend the same arrangement as last year's—48 hours for Christmas, 48 hours for New Year. Now, if there will be a new (time frame), if the president so desires, we will also comply," Abadia said.

Traditionally, cessation of military offensives during the holiday season lasted only for 48 hours, from Dec. 24 to 25 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. This has become a practice during the Aquino administration.

Abadia Vows To Prevent NPA Disruption of Polls

HK1212032391 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, vowed to do his best to ensure holding a clean and peaceful election next year.

Abadia issued the statement following a statement by the New People's Army [NPA] to help the candidates who support their cause. Abadia said that he will prevent any plan by the NPA to disrupt the elections next year, stressing that he cannot allow the NPA to meddle in the elections on 11 May 1992.

NPA Rebels To Field Candidates in 1992 Poll

HK1212030191 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 12 Dec 91 p 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Communist guerrillas are planning to field their own candidates in the general elections next year but vowed to continue their armed activities in the countryside, a ranking guerrillas leader said.

Gregorio Rosal, 48, the alleged spokesman for the Melito Glor command of the New People's Army (NPA) in the southern Tagalog region, said they have started researching and reviewing the political platforms of politicians seeking an elective post in the May 1992 polls.

He said the rebels have adopted a two-pronged strategy in the elections. The two major components are intensified agitation and propaganda to discredit the elections to some extent, and violent armed struggle as the way to topple the government.

Part of the agitation propaganda campaign was to look for materials that could be used to discredit certain candidates and at the same time, select, groom, and project candidates sympathetic to the movement.

Rosal, alias Ka [Comrade] Roger, was interviewed in his mountain lair in the Quezon-Laguna boundary over the weekend.

The military, on the other hand, warned that the communist rebels are planning to sow terrorism and violence during the election to ensure the victory of their "candidates" in some parts of the country.

Citing captured documents which confirmed Rosal's statements, the military said it learned that the rebels were preparing to field candidates sympathetic to their cause at the local level.

The military said it would monitor the rebels plans and activities because of the rebels plan to infiltrate the local governments by fielding candidates at the barangay and municipal levels.

Rosal said it would appear premature for them to field their own electoral slates as shown by their dismal performance in the 1987 congressional and 1988 local elections.

But they have agreed to form a broad coalition with "progressive" candidates and to infiltrate and discredit political known as "reactionary" and "counter" revolutionary." [sentence and quotation marks as published]

Aquino To Campaign for Selected Candidates

HK1212064291 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Aquino will personally campaign for her selected candidates during the 1992 national elections. President Aquino said this during the inauguration of the Hall of Justice in Iloilo City. According to the president, she will again visit Iloilo to personally endorse her candidate during the campaign period for the 1992 elections. The president did not mention the names of her candidates, but they are expected to come from the Struggle of Filipino Democrats Party.

Teachers End Hunger Strike Following Agreement

HK1212091491 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The hunger strike of dismissed teachers ended today after an agreement was signed between them and government officials during a special committee meeting participated in by the leaders of dismissed teachers. They have agreed on the following issues: first, the Education Department will immediately act on the reinstatement appeals of dismissed teachers; second, the special committee on format will release guidelines to be followed by teachers on forwarding executive clemency requests to the Civil Service Commission or CSC; third, dismissed teachers may apply to CSC or Education Department for executive clemency. They have also agreed that the Civil Service Commission will support the teachers in looking for other jobs.

The agreement was signed by Eric Torres, chairman of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers; Benjie Valbuena, chairman of the Manila Public School Teachers Association [MPSTA]; Fidel Pababier of MPSTA; and Education Under Secretary Erlinda Pestianco. The agreement is expected to be ratified by President Aquino today.

Canada Increases Pinatubo, Typhoon Aid

HK1212025591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 12 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines, Andre S. Simard has announced that the Canadian Embassy's Canada Fund For Local Initiatives, in the face of pressing needs to rehabilitate areas affected by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and Typhoon Uring, has been increased by P [Philippine Peso] 12 million for the current fiscal year. With this increase, the Canada Fund budget in support of Philippine NGOs [Non-Government Organization] and other agencies now stands at P24 million, its highest level ever.

This fund provides immediate support for small, innovative and cost-effective projects at the grassroots level where local communities are directly involved.

Thailand

Premier Insists on Neutral Body To Oversee Polls

BK1112015591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday insisted a neutral body is needed to oversee the general election to ensure a fair contest and said he and his Cabinet will form one even though the Interior Ministry may disagree with the move.

Mr Anan, talking to Thai reporters accompanying him in Japan, did not elaborate on the structure or power of the election watchdog but said its existence will not contradict the Interior Ministry's election bill approved by the Cabinet on Monday.

The ministry pushed the bill through the Cabinet on Monday but this fell short of giving legal status to a national watchdog commission proposed by Mr Anan two weeks ago to monitor the election—a job traditionally handled by the ministry.

Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who attended his first Cabinet meeting in three months, denied that the military opposed the watchdog proposal but said a system has to be arranged to ensure coordination between the commission and the ministry.

Mr Anan told reporters that Deputy Premiers Michai Ruchupan and Pol Gen Phao Sarasin have been assigned to approach respected, neutral persons to join the panel.

The Premier reaffirmed that those invited to join the committee must be neutral and fair and have no connection with political parties or groups.

Mr Michai said the form of the watchdog mechanism is being considered and will be decided by the Premier after he returns from abroad.

Many political parties yesterday welcomed Mr Anan's proposal, endorsing the need for a neutral mechanism to ensure a fair, clean election, citing their concern that the ministry may not be able to ensure this.

New Aspiration Party secretary-general Prasong Sunsiri predicted widespread fraud in the election and urged the public to be on guard against irregularities.

He described as a "blatant lie" the minsitry's claim that six million people favour the controversial draft Constitution while only about 2,000 oppose it.

"This is just the beginning and there is already cheating. How can we trust them (the ministry)?" asked Prasong adding that he doubts senior Interior officials were not involved in the "mobilisation" of public support for the draft charter last week.

He criticised the ministry's opposition to giving power to the neutral election watchdog commission to act against election fraud. The commission he said, will be authorised only to monitor the election and receive complaints of irregularities.

The former National Security Council chief proposed the creation of a neutral body to monitor the election with funding, between 20 million and 30 million baht, possibly from the Government. Students should be mobilised to check the list of eligible voters after the census and observe the election at 40,000 polling booths throughout the country.

The use of students to monitor the eleciton would save government officials from allegations of fraud in favour of certain parties or candidates.

He noted that cheating could be done at various stages, in the preparation of the list of eligible voters, the issuing of temporary identity cards and in vote-counting.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet and Solidarity Party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian also expressed support for the commission.

"The ministry may not compeltely agree with the proposal but it shoudl understand that it still holds the power in overseeing the elegion. The watchdog will be just a body to balance out the ministry's performance," Mr Samak said.

He said the commission shoudl be incorporated as part of the election law.

Mr Bunchu said he is disappointed that the watchdog authority has not been incorproated into the bill.

Democrat party member Surin Pitsuwan said he believed Mr Anan had pushed for the commission because the Premier did not believe in the ministry's ability to ensure a fair, clear election.

He said he did not understand why the ministry did not allow this mechanism to be included in the bill.

Deputy Minister on Military Action in Elections

BK1212032691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] In reply to a question about how military officials will act in the general elections expected in March next year, Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit said the military will be neutral towards the elections as it does not meddle in politics.

He said election candidates will not be allowed to hold any election campaign or related activities in military units to prevent unfairness to candidates.

Commenting on how to make the elections clean and fair, he said that it is a duty of political parties to help oversee the elections. Officials and government agencies concerned, such as the Interior Ministry, will have to organize the general election in a clean and fair manner, while the public should also help smoothen the election process.

Lao Deputy Minister Calls on Interior Minister

BK1212100091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, called on Thai Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi at the Interior Ministry this morning.

The Lao deputy foreign minister said that the main objective of his visit to Thailand was to exchange views with Thai counterparts in order to strengthen relations between Thailand and Laos.

On the setting up of a joint committee to solve various problems along the Thai-Lao common border, Souban said it was a good idea because it would be able to solve problems at local level, which is in line with the policies of the two countries.

Discusses Visit, Border Situation

BK1212133591 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] This morning at the Foreign Ministry, Souban Salitthilat, the deputy foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], paid a courtesy call on Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to exchange views and discuss a visit by a Lao leader. Gen. Itsaraphong spoke to reporters after their meeting.

[Begin recording] [Itsaraphong in progress] ...visit to Thailand of the Lao president. There is no problem because Laos is a good friend of Thailand. Therefore, the visit of the Lao president will strengthen good relations, and I think he will be the king's guest.

[Unidentified reporter] When will the visit take place?

[Itsaraphong] I don't know. This issue concerns the Foreign Ministry. The Lao deputy foreign minister called on me for coordination with the Interior Ministry concerning the president's travel. We acknowledged the request and will do our best as far as our parts are concerned. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the LPDR deputy foreign minister spoke about the Thai-Lao border situation, noting that the local border committee has been effectively tackling relevant problems.

[Begin recording] [Souban] Regarding the border situation, everything remains all right. The only thing left is to make it better still.

[Unidentified reporter] What topics of cooperation were discussed?

[Souban] We did not discuss anything about cooperation because there already are committees to deal with such border issues. We only exchanged views on how to strengthen cooperation and relations.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the various committees set up to resolve border problems are able to effectively perform their jobs?

[Souban] The two governments hope that they can effectively resolve problems. If not, why did we take the trouble to set them up in the first place?

[Unidentified reporter] What guidelines do we have to improve the border situation?

[Souban] The committees will make decisions on the policy and guideline for implementation in each step to improve the situation.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the Thai interior minister been invited to visit Laos?

[Souban] I am not an interior minister. I have no authority to extend such an invitation to him. But if he wishes, he can visit Laos any time because he is also one of those who wants to improve Thai-Lao relations. [end recording]

Soviets Contracted To Help Build Transit System

BK0712014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration [BMA] has agreed to hire experts from the Soviet Union to carry out a feasibility study for the city's first underground mass transit system.

BMA Governor Chamlong Simuang said the study is necessary because several mass transit projects awaiting implementation will be insufficient to handle commuters.

Bangkok's population has reached eight to nine million people, he said.

"Even if an underground mass transit system costs as much as a thousand million baht a kilometre, we will still have to invest in it because the project will be necessary for the metropolis which has eight to nine million people as it is now," Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

He said the experts are due to arrive on January 18 to sign the contract for the study which will include an analysis of the potential for underground commercial complexes to earn revenue to cusion the cost of such a transport system.

The governor said the project could be undertaken by the BMA and the Government, or by the private sector, the same way as the BMA's overhead light rail project.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said the BMA has also decided that in future pedestrian subways should be built instead of footbridges. Bangkok now has 290 footbridges probably the largest number of any city in the world.

Subways would improve the appearance of the city, he said.

He said Deputy Permanent Secretary Prasoet Samalab has been assigned to design the underground crossings, which will feature shopping areas and safety and security aspects, as well as their investment cost.

The private sector may be invited to invest in the project in exchange for the right to operate the shops.

Vietnam

Report on 12 Dec National Assembly Session

BK1212070691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Today, 12 December, marks the third working day of the 10th session of the Eighth National Assembly.

In the morning, the deputies held group discussions on the amendments to the draft law on import-export taxes, focusing on the irrationality of certain provisions of the law on taxes imposed on imported and exported commercial goods as well as on the need to make adjustments to meet the requirements of the present situation.

They also discussed the list of products and raised the issue whether the Council of State should be entrusted with the task of determining the tax rates for different kinds of goods whereas the Council of Ministers should be charged with setting the concrete tax rates for import and export products.

The deputies also focussed on the issues relating to tax exemptions and reductions, small cross-border import and export trade, and the relations between the import-export tax collection mechanism and local administrative organs at all levels.

The deputies will continue their group discussions this afternoon.

Do Muoi's Second Plenum Address, Part 2

BK1112113791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 91

["Part 2" of Party General Secretary Do Muoi's Address at the Second Plenum of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee held from 25 November to 4 December in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] Fundamental principles and orientations for reform of state apparatus.

1. The reform of state apparatus must be included in the general plan for renovating the political system which is aimed at building and gradually perfecting socialist democracy and ensuring that all power belongs to the people. The people are masters of the country and the Constitution is the fundamental law institutionalizing the people's right to mastery. The people set up the state and entrust it with the power to manage social activities. The state represents the will of the people and exercises the people's power. The people exercise their rights to mastery through the state, mass organizations and societies, labor collectives, and through the rights and obligations of citizens. The amended Constitution must reflect the spirit of respect for, and assurance of, the people's rights to democracy, while opposing all efforts to take advantage of democracy to violate the interests of the people and the nation. The Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and other mass organizations have integrated a vast segment of people from various classes and strata, thus creating a firm political base for our state. The role and position of the VFF and other mass organizations have become increasingly significant and are being expanded further, along with the development of democracy, improvement of the multisectoral commodity-based economy, and promotion of the culture that helps develop the lofty humanity values of our nation and mankind.

The state must rely on the VFF and other mass organizations, ensure and create favorable conditions for the people to participate directly—or through their organizations—in building and protecting the state management apparatus.

The reform of the state apparatus on the basis of the amended Constituion is aimed at enhancing the efficacy of the state, overcoming bureaucratism, creating a combined strength to extricate the country from the current socioeconomic crisis, firmly maintaining and strengthening political stability, defending the fatherland, opposing all schemes and acts of sabotage of the enemies, and gradually and triumphantly building socialism .

2. The state machinery must be reformed in accordance with the following basic principles:

The state power is unified and cannot be divided, but assignments are clearly made. On the basis of unifying power, there should be both clear assignments and a determination of the relations among the three legislative, executive, and judicidary powers, with the highest state power concentrated in the National Assembly. This principle reflects the continuity, successiveness, and development of the Vietnam state, while manifesting the selected acquisition of scientific, organizational and state management achievements in the world for proper application to the realistic situation in our country.

Reforming the state machinery as well as amending the Constitution must ensure the unification of power and overcome the confusion and duplication of the three powers which weaken the centralized power, as well as the function and authority of various constitutionally assigned components. The relationship between the state and state management and the economic organization and business management must be clearly determined. The mistake that we are correcting lies in the fact that we have not correctly applied the objective law, thus creating widespread and ineffective public ownership and confusing state economic management with the function of direct production and business management.

We have failed to define the right to self-administration in business of economic units and have maintained too long the economic management mechanism according to the plan of bureaucratic centralism of subsidization, without taking into account the market relations. It is mainly the weakness of state management which has created an opportunity for many negative phenomena to develop, such as smuggling, speculation, corruption, and the violation of state assets and capital, thus harming the common interests of the country and people and disturbing socioeconomic operations.

By overcoming the aforementioned mistakes, we are building consistently the new economic structure and management mechanism, establishing a perfect legal system in order to enhance the effectiveness of managerial control over the multisectorial economy of commodities, and adjusting and rearranging the system in order to better manage the state-owned economy and create conditions for developing other economic sectors in the right direction. At the same time, we resolutely oppose extremist and deviant viewpoints, such as going from widespread nationalization to ill-considered privatization, floating the market and letting state management become loose.

It is necessary to build a jurisdictionally solid state whose organizational and managerial systems are patterned after the principle of democratic centralism to ensure that the nation as a whole forms a single entity and that a uniform market system applies nationwide. Our state must be built in such a way as to secure full jurisdiction for all three institutions—legislative, executive, and judiciary. Prompt measures must be taken to overcome certain shortcomings displayed in the body of laws, such as a lack of systematic, adequate, and modern legal institutions to meet the requirements of life. It is of special importance to resolutely get rid of such bad practices as disorganization, anarchy, lack of discipline and order, and a failure to seriously and fully abide by existing laws and regulations.

To correctly comply with those principles, particularly the one governing the administrative state management system, the amendments to the Constitution must take into account rational structural and organizational forms so as to firmly maintain uniformity of state authority while at the same time bringing into full play the dynamism and creative roles of localities, grass-roots establishments, and the people as a whole. Concerted efforts are needed to oppose bureaucratic centralism, departmentalism, sectarianism, regionalism, and anarchy.

Based on the above-mentioned principles, I would like to deal with some issues relating to the restructuring of the state mechanism as mentioned in the constitutional amendments.

First of all, the amendments to the Constitution must lay the groundwork for renovating the organizations and operational procedures of the National Assembly and people's councils at all levels and must secure conditions for these institutions to have real power so that they can operate efficiently according to the functions determined by the Constitution and legal system and overcome formalism.

Our National Assembly is the highest-level representation of the people and also the highest-level organ of state power. On behalf of the people countrywide, the National Assembly exercises the power delegated to it by the people. The National Assembly constitutes the only organ having legislative and judiciary power to decide paramount issues of the country, elect and impeach heads of the highest organs of the state and ultimately supervise the activities of the state machinery.

As the highest organ of state power, the National Assembly decides laws and supervises the state law enforcement agencies but does not mix up with the executive power of the government as well as the adjudicative independence of the tribunal. To fulfill the duty of the highest organ of state power, the National Assembly must be composed of competent and good deputies who are elected in a truly democratic manner and whose qualifications should not be lowered just because of structural needs. There should not be many persons concurrently assigned key tasks of the executive and judiciary branches.

In the present conditions of our country, all or at least most of the permanent members of the nationalities council and the various committees of the National Assembly must work full time. As for other deputies, they should also devote much time and attention to performing their duties as National Assembly deputies. The long-term orientation for the National Assembly is to shift gradually to its regular operations.

The reform of the executive system holds an extremely important significance and aims to enhance the managerial efficiency and effectiveness of the state. At present, despite some considerable progress in the legislative and executive branches, they are still far behind the requirements of the real situation. The system of legislative organs has long been affected with the prominent weakness of bureaucratic centralism and sluggishness and with dispersion and incoherence. Its machinery is very cumbersome and its operations lack efficiency and effectiveness. This weakness must be quickly overcome in the days to come.

To strengthen the executive system, first of all, the government's organization and operational mechanism must be renovated. The government is an executive organ of the National Assembly and the highest administrative organ of the state. This conforms to the requirement of upholding the executive branch without encroaching on the principle of unifying power into the National Assembly, and creates conditions for the executive organs to have enough authority to flexibly and alertly cope with the complex developments of the situation.

To avoid confusion between the legislative power of the National Assembly and the ruling and regulating power of the government, the government is required to be very active and dynamic to correctly exercise its authority. The government itself and its ministries must administer the state comprehensively. In the state management of the economy, on the strength of distinguishing the function of state administration from the function of production and business management of various economic units, it is necessary to consider and eliminate the various unsuitable regulations, rules, and organizations to ensure that the government can engage in large-scale management to exercise state management through law without interfering directly in the operations of economic organizations and production and business units, and the self-administration rights of cultural and social installations.

In this spirit, the Constitution Amendment Committee will petition the establishment of plans while the government and prime minister will represent the Council of Ministers. The Constitution will give the prime minister enough power to implement his duties, including the right to select and recommend ministers for the approval of the National Assembly, appoint heads of subordinate administrative agencies as recommended by the people's councils at the same levels, and unify the operation of the state administration apparatus from the central down to grassroots levels.

To overcome the situation of irresponsibility and interdependence, which reduces effectiveness and alertness in management and operation, ministers must highly develop their individual responsibility and actively participate in the collective operations of the government while being subjected to the command, regulation and coordination of the prime minister. In operational control, the prime minister should listen to and respect the views of collectives in the Council of Ministers. Ministers have national authority over, and responsibility for, their assigned sectors or domains. Their decisions on the management of branches or domains which are still valid, must be implemented by all other ministries, local administration agencies, units, and citizens countrywide.

Reforming the judiciary system is a very important component in the reform of state machinery. This reform must be carried out uniformly with the reform of the legislative and executive branches. Our present judiciary organs are still weak in many respects, ranging from prevention, detection, and investigation to prosecution and adjudication, and from organizational to operational methods. The responsibility and quality of judicial cadres is still limited, which prevents cadres from covering all areas of the developing society, especially in the economic and administrative areas. To overcome these weaknesses and restrictions, we must pay adequate attention to the judiciary domain that is closely related to the building of a juridical state.

Juridiciary power encompasses a very broad area, in which the principle of the independence of the judges must be ensured to allow judges to comply only with the law when adjudicating. It is necessary to clarify the functions of control, inspection, and supervision in order to ensure the maintenance of order and discipline in the entire society, as well as in the state machinery, in accordance with the Constitution and law. This includes the general control of the legality of various documents on the power of the executive.

To implement democracy and strengthen the legal system, we must continue to study, modify and progressively perfect the legal system; and we must prepare cadres and take appropriate steps and measures to carry out judiciary reform in keeping with the requirements of socioeconomic renovation as well as the need to expand international relations.

The reform of local administration agencies must follow the principle of unifying state power to ensure a unified, thorough and highly efficient network of state administration. Reforming the state machinery further encompasses an important scope that is to intensify the close relationship between the state and the fatherland front and other mass organizations. The front and mass organizations participate in the management, supervision and protection of the state. The state relies on the front and mass organizations to develop the people's mastery and organized strength. This is also mainly the strength of the state itself.

The front and mass organizations must mobilize the people of all strata to exercise their mastery over the building of the state primarily in electing the people-elected organs of the National Assembly and the people's councils at all levels in a truly democratic manner. They must do this by recommending candidates for elections, organizing democratic consultation, propaganda and electoral campaigns, and resolutely overcoming the formalistic, democratic manner of working for the people. They must organize and mobilize the people of all strata to enthusiastically participate in formulating laws and policies, contribute their views to the state agencies at all levels, and motivate the people to formulate regulations and rules in their station areas concerning the issues related to citizens' duties and interests in conformity with the laws, positions, and policies of the state. They must participate in disseminating laws among the people, and organize mass action movements to effectively implement the laws and decisions of the state.

The front and mass organizations must positively participate in the struggle against the two vices of bureaucratism and authoritarianism, which cause trouble to the people and violate the citizens' legal rights and interests, and against the corruption that is eroding the people's confidence in the party and the state.

In the course of issuing decisions and exercising managerial and operational control, the National Assembly and the people's councils and the government, and the administrative committees at all levels should listen to the petitions of the front and mass organizations. The state should formulate organizational regulations and an operational mechanism to satisfactorily settle its relationship with the front and mass organizations.

The front and mass organizations must renovate their organization and operating procedures in order to fulfill their responsibilities, help increase the managerial strength and efficiency of the state, and strenuously avoid the long-practised formalistic ways of doing things.

Singaporean Official Discusses Joint-Relations

BK1112162391 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Decmber 11—The political (?solution) of the Cambobian issue has paved the way for better relations between Singapore and Vietnamn said Singaporean Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng in a recent interview to the [words indistinct] international relations [word indistinct].

The Singaporean foreign minister noted that the Singapore visit from October 30 to Nov (?1) by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet marked the beginning of a new stage in the relations between the two countries. He affirmed that Singapore wants to see Vietnam develop in prosperity and that a prosperous, dynamic and peaceful Vietnam which has constructive relations with its neighbouring countries is a positive factor in the region that strengthens the stability and contributes to [word indistinct] economic development of [words indistinct] the Pacific, he said.

Minister Wong Kan Seng further said that Singapore would by all ways and means to cooperate, assist and share experiences with Vietnam. Singapore is a major financial, commercial and communication centre in the region, and might become an important door to trade and investment in Vietnam when it could create a favourable environment.

Conference Held on Repatriation of Refugees

BK1212093491 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 12—A conference was held here on December 10-11 by the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs to review the work of receiving and reintegrating repatriates over the past three years.

The conference was attended by nearly 100 representatives of 30 provinces and cities, and of the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Afairs and Public Health.

Also present were Dr. Alexandro Casella, special UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] advisor, Mr. Jacques Mouchet, representative of UNHCR in Hanoi, the director and deputy director of the European Community programme in Vietnam the British ambassador, and representatives of international and foreign nongovernmental organizations concerned.

Delivering a report at the conferencen Mrs Nguyen Thi Hang, deputy minister of labour, war invalids and social affairs, pointed out the refugee and migration issue is an international phenomenon relating to social, political and economic upheavals and natural calamities. Vietnam is one of the countries which has suffered most from wars and the trade embargo imposed by the United States which has prompted a number of Vietnamese to emigrates [as received]. Over the past three years, Vietnam has received more than [word indistinct] repatriates among them Haiphong received [word indistinct] new persons, Quang Ninh [word indistinct] and Ho Chi Minh City [word indistinct]. The majority of them returned from Hong Kong, [word indistinct] were from Thailand, [word indistinct] from Indonesia and [word indistinct] from the Philippines. Thanks to Vietnamese lenient and humane policy and assistance from UNHCR and EC and other international humanitarian organizations, the reception of the repatriates has been conducted in order, safe and convenience.

The British ambassador and other foreign participants highly appreciated Vietnamese goodwill in receiving repatriates and creating necessary conditions for them to [word indistinct] and reintegrate into the community.

National Summit for Children Opens in Hanoi

BK1212084291 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 12—A national programme of action for children (NPA) in 1991-1992 was launched here on Wednesday at a two-day national summit for children organized by the National Committee for Protection and Care for Children and financed by UNICEF.

Present were Vo Chi Cong, State Council President Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers and Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the National Committee for Protection and Care for Children.

Also present were Mr. Daniel Brooks, regional UNICEF director, [name indistinct] Farroqui, UNICEF representative, David Smith, UNDP [expansion unknown] representative and members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Vietnam.

The summit crowns a year of intense activity to fulfil the renewed commitment to survival, protection and development of Vietnamese children. It follows the government's ratification of the convention on the rights of the child and the signing of the world declaration on the survival, protection and development of children.

Opening the summit on Wednesday morning, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said :

"Despite many economic constraints, Vietnam gives priority to the strategy for the development of human resources. Central to this strategy is the care and education of children".

The summit reviewed progress made in the protection and care of children, with focus on the development of laws in this regard, helping all national and international development partners to renew their commitment to accelerated actions and programmes in support of children and initiating constructive implementation of the action program.

Taking the floor the UNICEF and UNDP representatives and representatives of other international nongovernmental organizations in Hanoi noted that the summit was a historical opportunity for the Vietnamese children, and affirmed that they would continue to support Vietnam in the implementation of the NPA for children.

Regulations on Use of Satellite Dishes Issued

BK1212103091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Dec 91

[Text] Presently, the installation and use of the television receiving and broadcasting system via satellite TVRO is quite popular. It helps diversify information and enhances the cultural and spiritual lives of the people. However, many local units have casually used the system to organize business and exploit information and photos without careful discrimination, thus affecting public security and order and cultural and social situation.

The Ministry of Culture, Information, and Sports recently disseminated rules on the use of the television receiving and broadcasting system. It coordinates with various sectors to control some localities such as Ho Chi Minh City and Vung Tau, Lam Dong, Thuan Hai, Kien Giang, and Hau Giang Provinces. Ho Chi Minh City has established a control team composed of representatives of the culture, custom, and police sectors, the inspection committee and the foreign relation service to screen the import, production, assembly, and use of TVRO.

The city people's committee has suspended the issuance of licenses to units. Diplomatic agencies, economic units, and hotels needing to serve international guests are authorized to use only the cable system installed by the union of television and radio broacasts and served by the television station.

Australia

Hawke To Remain Labor Chief Till 1993 Eelctions

BK1212063491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 12 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke has decided to stay as leader of the Labor Party until the next election, Finance Minister Kim Beazley told reporters here Thursday.

Beazley was speaking after Hawke met his closest supporters in cabinet twice in the day amid widespread rumours that he was about to resign.

The next election is due to take place in 1993.

Beazley said he and five other senior ministers had endorsed Hawke's decision.

News that Hawke was to stay had little effect on the Australian dollar, despite dealers' predictions that it would fall if Hawke stayed on and rise if he were replaced by former treasurer Paul Keating.

The dollar was trading at 77.12 U.S. cents late in the day, down from 77.35 on Wednesday but up from an overnight low of 76.94.

Beazley said that at meetings on Wednesday night and Thursday the six ministers had canvassed all options facing Hawke.

"At the end of those discussions the prime minister expressed the view to the senior ministers in attendance that he intended to remain leader of the Labor party until the next election," Beazley said.

"The senior ministers endorsed that position and that is the situation."

Cypriot President Vasiliou Arrives on Visit

Links Talks to Bush Visit

NC1212130991 Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English 12 Dec 91 p 20

[Report by Periklis Solomidhis]

[Excerpt] President Vasiliou says it is a good coincidence he will be having talks in Australia at the same time as the Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis is raising the Cyprus problem again in Washington with President George Bush.

President Vasiliou made the statement at Sydney Airport where he arrived on Tuesday before he flew to Canberra for vital talks with the Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke.

He also referred to the upcoming Bush visit to Australia and expressed the belief that Hawke will urge the American President to intensify his efforts for a fair and lasting solution for Cyprus, a member of the Commonwealth.

Mitsotakis, who has already arrived in New York on his way to Washington, said the Cyprus problem and Greek-Turkish relations, with which the Cyprus problem is related, will be high in the priorities of his talks with Bush. [passage omitted]

Feted by Prime Minister Hawke

NC1212134291 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke condemned the Turkish occupation of part of Cyprus, supported the island's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stressed that his country supports a Cyprus solution on the basis of UN resolutions. Addressing a luncheon in honor of President Yeoryios Vasiliou, who is on an official visit to Australia, Hawke also said that the search for a just, peaceful, and lasting Cyprus solution constitutes a big challenge for the international community, and called on Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to commit himself to seeking a Cyprus solution.

Referring to Turkish President Turgut Ozal's visit to Australia, Hawke noted that he had tried to pressure Ankara to adopt decisive steps on the Cyprus problem, pointing out to Ozal that a Cyprus solution also serves regional and Turkish interests.

President Vasiliou replied, saying that the Australian and Cypriot peoples and Governments are devoted to the same values and principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and justice. Vasiliou stressed: This defines the two countries' excellent cooperation, adding that these principles must govern the future solution of the Cyprus issue.

The Australian Senate stressed the need to try harder to end the Turkish military presence in Cyprus. In a resolution approved on the first day of President Vasiliou's eight-day visit to Australia, the Senate said it was disappointed because, following initiatives under UN auspices and goodwill shown by the Cyprus Government, no progress had been made toward finding a just and viable Cyprus solution. The resolution calls on all interested parties to cooperate with the UN secretary general to find a Cyprus solution based on UN Security Council resolutions.

Council Backs Fiji Protest Against Labor Laws

BK1212080491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] The Australian Council of Trade Unions [ACTU] has voted to support a Fiji national day of protest over the country's tough new labor laws. The decision was taken in Melbourne today following an appeal earlier this week by the Fiji trade union leader, Mahendra Chowdhury.

An ACTU spokesman told Radio Australia, the council would coordinate its actions with those of Fiji trade unions. He said no ACTU bans are in place against Fiji.

A date for the day of protest is expected to be fixed soon.

Fiji's new labor laws restrict union membership and strike action and impose heavy penalties for illegal strikes.

Unemployment Rate Highest Since 1930's Depression

BK1212080691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Australia's unemployment rate has jumped 10.5 percent. Helen McQume reports that the November figure is the highest recorded since the depression in the 1930's.

[Begin McQume recording] More than 900,000 Australians are now officially out of work, that is an increase of almost 41,000 on the number of jobless in October. It surpasses the unemployment level of the last recession when it reached 10.3 percent.

Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania all had jobless rates of 11 percent and above, while New South Wales had recorded unemployment at 10 percent, and in Queensland it had come in at 9.9 percent. [end recording]

Fiji

Premier Replies to Former Army Commander

BK1112105991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Suva, Dec 11 (AFP)—Fijian navy divers were ordered to blow up two Australian navy ships and a New Zealand frigate in Suva Harbour hours after the military coup on May 14, 1987, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said Wednesday.

The disclosure, in a statement issued here, was the latest in a bad-tempered public exchange between Mara and former army commander Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the coup.

In an interview published last week in Tonga, Mara said Australia and New Zealand were ready to invade after the coup, which toppled Fiji's last elected government.

In a front-page interview in Wednesday's DAILY POST, Rabuka said the first claim "demonstrates his (Mara's) lack of military understanding."

The prime minister said the order to blow up the training ship HMAS Jervis Bay, the destroyer HMAS Adelaide and the Frigate HMAS Wellington was made when they remained in harbour after being told to leave.

"These ships refused to leave until our own naval division divers were tasked to blow them out off the water with explosives," the statement said.

The ships were saved when the military government which Rabuka had just installed asked for time for the ships' crews to be recalled from shore, Mara said.

"The ships left Suva shortly thereafter and remained outside our territorial waters."

Mara reiterated his claim, made in MATANGI TONGA magazine last Wednesday, that New Zealand and Australia were going to invade Fiji after Rabuka's first military coup.

Rabuka carried out a second coup later in 1987 and installed the interim government still led by Mara.

Rabuka said Mara's invasion claim "demonstrates his lack of military understanding," adding:

"At that time neither Australia nor New Zealand had the capability nor the political will to conduct such an exercise."

In reply, Mara said his source of informat was briefings to the council of ministers in May 1987 by "no other than Rabuka himself."

In MATANGI TONGA, Mara pointedly omitted Rabuka's name from a list of "talented" people who might succeed him as prime minister after next year's general election.

Mara also said he did not want to work under Fiji's new constitution if he becomes president of Fiji.

The constitution, promulgated last year, guarantees political power to indigenous Fijians.

Describing Mara as "a ruthless politician who has been allowed to get away with a lot," Rabuka said:

"Maybe it's because of the Fijian culture that he is a big chief, and because he has been groomed well by the colonial government."

Rabuka said Mara should not aspire to becoming president of Fiji if he did not think he could wolunder the constitution.

Rabuka also rejected Mara's denials that he had no prior knowledge of the military coup.

He said Mara's eldest son, Ratu Finau, was sent to the Fijian Hotel, 150 kilometres west of Suva, where Mara was attending a conference, to warn his father the day before the coup.

Mara retorted that Finau told him: "You should not come to Suva tomorrow (May 14)," but said he thought his son was telling him that his questions in parliament would not be tabled that day, something his secretary had already told him.

"I was a bit annoyed," Mara said. "I rather rudely closed the door and went back to sleep."

Solomon Islands

Minister Supports Bougainville Independence Fight

BK1212081891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] A minister in the Solomon Islands Government, Allan Qurusu, has said he will not support a proposed extradition treaty with Papua new Guinea when Cabinet discusses it.

Mr. Qurusu says the treaty is only intended to penalize the leaders of the Bougainville rebellion and that as he was related to Bougainvilleans, he would not like to see his relatives being punished by Papua New Guinea.

The proposal for an extradition treaty has been put forward by the Port Moresby government and has been with the Honiara government since last month, but nothing has been done.

Mr. Qurusu who is minister for provincial government also rejected statements that Bougainvilleans were entering Solomon Islands illegally. Mr. Qurusu said that if he is reelected in 1993, he will strongly pursue Bougainville's independence from Papua New Guinea or merger with Solomon Islands.

He is the first government member to public support Bougainville's fight for independence.